World Geospatial Industry Council

HORIZONS NEWSLETTER

October 2026

WGIC UPDATES

WGIC Releases Q4 2026 Policy Scan Tracking 90 Developments Across Seven Regions



The new Q4 2026 edition of the Policy Scan tracks 90 policy, regulatory and standards developments across seven regions, exploring what they could mean for geospatial businesses.

Five forces define the quarter. Control of location data is being divided rather than simply tightened. Drone rules are pulling in two directions, with security measures tightening in the United States while Europe eases some airspace access. Space policy combines US licensing reform, the UK's strategic and licensing plans, and UAE regularization of existing licensing requirements. EU digital obligations under the AI Act, the Data Act and the Cyber Resilience Act are now live. And data protection law is spreading and hardening well beyond Europe.

Read the report.

Geospatial Talent Exists on Paper. How Do We Bring It into the Workforce?



Dedicated geospatial programs produce enough graduates to cover about half the industry's modelled annual demand. Graduates from related disciplines offer a larger potential talent pool. But how can that potential translate into geospatial careers?

Drawing on WGIC's Global Geospatial Workforce report, our latest blog explores how targeted training and closer collaboration between employers and educators can help connect graduates with geospatial work. It also highlights why tracking entry into employment and retention matters.

Read the full blog.
Download the report.

What Makes Geospatial Data Fit for a Decision?



A dataset can be authentic and unchanged yet still be too old, insufficiently detailed or unlicensed for the decision it is meant to support.

Drawing on WGIC's Data to Decisions report, our latest blog explores six linked properties that make geospatial data fit for a decision. It examines why data quality, permission to use it and clear responsibility matter alongside evidence of its source and history.

Read the full blog.
Download the report.

Aaron Addison Talks Data and the Geospatial Voice in Policy with INTERGEO TV



More data does not always mean better decisions. Speaking with INTERGEO TV, WGIC Executive Director Aaron Addison explored why the industry must deliver data that supports real decisions and start with the customer's problem when choosing technology.

Aaron also stressed the need for a stronger geospatial voice in policy discussions as technological change accelerates. From helping policymakers understand the consequences of their choices to keeping human judgment central as automation expands, the conversation explored where the industry needs to focus next.

Watch the full interview.

HORIZONS PODCAST VIDEO

AI Is Changing The Legal Landscape For Geospatial Companies



Aaron Addison, WGIC Executive Director, speaks with Kevin Pomfret, Partner at Pierson Ferdinand and WGIC member and advisor, about the changing legal landscape for geospatial companies. Kevin explores how AI, privacy concerns, and data sovereignty are reshaping the way geospatial data is collected, used, and shared. They discuss the risks emerging from AI agents, the importance of contracts in defining responsibility, and why companies need to understand the laws that apply to their data and services. Kevin also shares the legal developments he is watching as the industry looks ahead to 2027.

[Watch now.]

EVENTS & OUTREACH

Horizons+ Dinner is Coming to Barcelona



WGIC will bring together a select group of city officials, government representatives, industry leaders and technology innovators for an exclusive Horizons+ Dinner in Barcelona.

This invitation only gathering offers an evening of networking and discussion on how geospatial intelligence, digital twins and data driven decision making can help cities address urban growth, sustainability, climate resilience, mobility and citizen services.

WGIC Connects with Members and Industry Professionals at R-CON 2026.



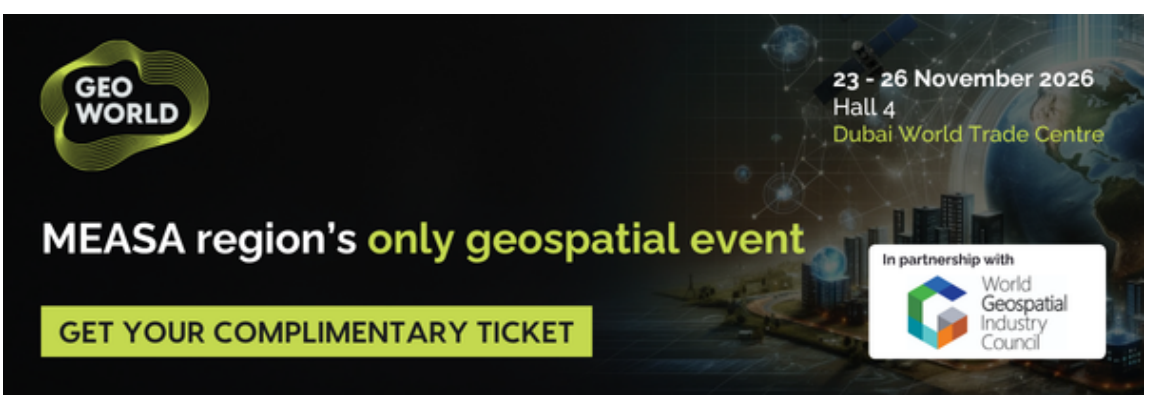
WGIC Executive Director Aaron Addison attended R-CON 2026 in Boise, Idaho, from October 12 to 15, reconnecting with members and exchanging ideas with professionals working across reality capture and the built environment. The event brought together technologies and practical insights to support business and project outcomes. Aaron attended “Building the Connected Digital Twin: From Reality Capture to Operations,” exploring the connection between captured data and operational use.

Helen Gilmartin Joins Industry Conversations at Bentley Systems’ Infrastructure Day



WGIC Associate Director Helen Gilmartin attended Bentley Systems’ Infrastructure Day in Dublin, joining conversations about how technology, people and connected information are shaping the future of infrastructure. The event brought together industry voices for a day of discussion and collaboration. Thank you to the Bentley team for creating an opportunity to exchange perspectives and connect with fellow industry professionals.

PARTNER EVENT



UPCOMING EVENTS

Smart City Expo World Congress | November 3-5, 2026
Trimble Dimensions 2026 | November 9-11, 2026 2026
AASHTO Annual Meeting and Expo | November 15-18, 2026
EAASI Summit | November 17-20, 2026
GeoWorld | November 23-6, 2026

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