Getting Ready for GASB 34 and 35

A new government accounting standard heightens the need for GIS to manage asset data

By Robert Underwood and Jeff Fitzgerald, Carter & Burgess Inc.

Public agencies have known for some time the benefits of using GIS and other information tools to convert rooms full of filing cabinets into searchable, integrated computer databases. But now, with the implementation of GASB 34 and 35, public agencies have a clear incentive to transfer their files and manage them with the latest information technology.

GASB 34 and 35 require all government entities that receive federal funding (city, county and state governments, school districts, municipal hospitals, public utilities and state universities, to name a few) to report on the value and condition of all their physical assets and infrastructure. Two methods are allowed: a simple depreciation method, and a modified method. The modified method takes into account maintenance expenses and the value that those expenses add to an asset. This method requires a current inventory of all assets, condition reports every three years, and estimates of annual maintenance costs.

Whichever method is used, public agencies will have to gather data on their physical assets and store it in a manner that will make it easily accessible for future reference. If ever there was a project tailor-made for GIS and similar technologies, this is it.

In some cases, this information may be expected two weeks after the GASB 34 and 35 protocols go into effect – as early as the fiscal reporting period that begins on June 15, 2001. By 2003, all state and local agencies must report their capital assets in compliance with these requirements.

Ready for GASB reporting

Public agencies that have already taken inventory of their assets and have built a GIS program to manage the data may find that they are already prepared for GASB 34 and 35 reporting or at least are well on their way. That was the case for the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, which began to document and compile data on its physical assets several years ago in response to a state tax law. The result is a comprehensive, user-friendly database of information about Arkansas’ 52 state parks that gives the state a head start on GASB 34 and 35 requirements.

Arkansas began its effort in order to comply with Amendment 75, a state law that creates additional sales tax revenue for various state entities. The Department of Parks and Tourism receives approximately $20 million annually for various repairs and construction projects throughout its system. What it doesn’t get, however, are more personnel to staff those projects. Already fully occupied with current duties, the department sought an information technology solution that would help them organize, prioritize and manage their maintenance and improvement projects. They needed a system that would help them spend their money more effectively.

The department contracted with Carter & Burgess to improve their asset management systems and to serve as an extension of their staff. The program involved designing computer management systems that integrated asset management software such as GIS, executive information systems (EIS) and asset management systems (AMS).

The result was a program that provided the Department of Parks and Tourism with even more GASB-related information than must be reported, and it readied the department to interface with other initiatives in the state. For example, the state is also implementing a new accounting system, and the data that has been gathered and entered for Parks and

Other resources about GASB 34 and 35

More information about GASB 34 and 35 is available at the following websites:

- Governmental Accounting Standards Board – http://www.gasb.org

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Important URISA Dates to Remember

August 12-14, 2001
Street Smart & Address Savvy Conference
Milwaukee, WI

September 9-12, 2001
URISA Caribbean GIS Conference
Montego Bay, Jamaica

October 20-24, 2001
URISA’s 39th Annual Conference
Long Beach, CA

November 14, 2001
GIS Day

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About URISA

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) is the premier professional association for those involved in improving our urban and regional environments through the effective use of information technology. Professionals in planning, economic development, information systems, emergency services, natural resources, public works, transportation, and other departments within state and local government have depended on URISA for professional development and educational needs since 1963. Through its international, national and local chapter operations, URISA serves nearly 8,000 professionals.

Have you visited the URISA Website lately?
www.urisa.org

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Tourism is easily imported into the state’s overall system.

Taking inventory and managing the data

The steps taken by Arkansas’ Department of Parks and Tourism, while coming before the advent of GASB 34 and 35, provide a working model for how public agencies can use GIS and other technology to prepare for GASB reporting.

The first step for the department, as with any agency, was to take a complete inventory of their assets. Prior to this project, the existing inventory included only buildings, and much of that information was incomplete and outdated. Information about infrastructure and equipment was held primarily in the collective memory of managers and supervisors.

An average-sized agency can expect to spend as much as a year to assess and evaluate their capital assets. With the number and variety of assets held by Parks and Tourism, this was a daunting task, even though it was approached with an organized game plan, a well-designed set of inspection methods and industry-accepted replacement cost models and estimating standards.

The inventory process involved counting everything that was not natural – park roads, cabins, machinery, everything down to outdoor water spigots. The process also called for evaluating the condition and real value of each item using consistent and objective formulas. It’s unusual to have to place a value on miles of rock walls built during World War II, but it was done.

Once data such as this is collected, the next logical step is to put it in a useable and accessible format. In the past, that would have meant paper files, a complicated indexing system and a staff to manage and access the system. But thanks to GIS, EIS and AMS, there’s a new and better way. EIS and AMS are primarily balance sheet programs, while GIS links all the collected data – maps, photos, building statistics, parcel information – to create a searchable database.

At last count Arkansas’ Department of Parks and Tourism had more than 16,000 line-item assets in its GIS program, and the number was growing. Prior to the program, there were approximately 1,000 known assets.
One of the largest capital expenditures URISA has ever undertaken is about three weeks from completion. The program instituted by the board over a year ago is to upgrade the servers at URISA headquarters and to buy and customize association management software. I am going to outline some of the improvements we are going to be making with the new hardware and software to better serve our membership. The upgrade is taking place in three main areas, internal operations, association management software and internet services. A brief outline follows below.

**Internal operations**

All URISA PC’s are linked to the main server where all documents reside. In addition, each staff member has a personal folder keyed to their password. We have moved from a DOS based email program to Microsoft Outlook. This fine-tuning of our internal computing has enabling quite a bit of efficiencies to be gained with the increased use of Outlook’s calendar and contact features.

Internal documents that are updated are kept in one central place so version control is easily maintained. Staff members can always put their fingers on updated documents. In addition we use Adobe Distiller to create Adobe acrobat files for most of the membership documents, that allow us to easily email them and make them available on our internet page.

**Association Management Software**

In addition to hardware purchases, we have contracted with one of the premier companies in the association management software business to develop a semi custom piece of software to help us manage membership and our conferences. This software will allow us to manage our membership much more efficiently. Some of the features we are going to have are contact management, membership history, detailed membership reports, abstract management, online services, detailed attendance history, attendance at seminars and workshops and a host of other mundane yet very vital association activities.

The software will also interface with our accounting software taking away a lot of the double entry work currently done by our accounting department. The new software will contribute to a lot of unseen efficiencies as well. We will probably uncover those as we go. The software also links up with our accounting software so we won’t have to worry about doubling the work, by entering the information in two pieces of software.

**Internet services**

One of the other major changes is how we will be doing business on the internet. URISA will be doing some interesting things with its web pages in the next half year. We have hosted our web pages on a server for the last half year residing in our computer room here at headquarters via a DSL hookup. We now have a much faster server which will access run through a T-1 line.

Our new membership software will interface in a very secure manner with the web site allowing online registration, membership management, publication sales and numerous other efficiencies. We will be using Cold Fusion to generate customized programming for our web site that will give URISA an extraordinarily user friendly web site.

**Results**

As we move towards our 40th year of existence we need to make sure URISA is poised to capture all the synergies that are available on the web to associations. I think we will see a quantum leap forward with the new systems and processes we are installing here in headquarters.

As always you may call or email me at anytime with questions or comments (847-824-6300 or bgentes@urisa.org).

**Election Results Are In!**

Thank you to all URISA members who voted in this year’s Board of Directors election. The candidates on this year’s ballot were extremely qualified and would have made excellent Board members.

Following URISA’s 39th Annual Conference in Long Beach, Martha Lombard (Spatial Focus, Birmingham, AL) will assume the position of President-Elect, and Susan Johnson (City of Charlotte, NC); Hilary Perkins (JE-Sverdrup, St Louis, MO); and Anne Walker Payne (Wake County, NC) will each begin their three-year terms as URISA Board members.

Thank you to all of this year’s candidates. The election results were close, which shows how well-respected each candidate is, among the URISA membership.
President’s Column

Notes from a Conference Junkie

By Lyna Wiggins, URISA President, Rutgers University

Well, I must admit that I am a conference junkie. I just returned from several meetings — the summer meeting of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and the annual ESRI Users Conference. These two conferences are about as different as can be - one is an academic conference of 140 or so people with a focused set of research interests and the other is a professional conference with 11,000 people from hundreds of countries and many professional affiliations. UCGIS is a small academic community and the summer meeting focuses on GIScience research agendas and educational topics, as well as giving current Ph.D. students an opportunity to present their research at an academic conference. The ESRI User Conferences focuses on one vendor technology but also provides sessions and posters from many GIS users around the world. But from both of these meetings I gained three of the most important outcomes from conferences - I learned many new things, met new colleagues and renewed old friendships. And the social events are just as important in community building as the regular sessions, plus being great fun!

Although I see my URISA chapter friends more often than others around the nation and world, it is true that sometimes you see someone just once a year at the annual conference and you feel that you’re simply continuing a conversation with an old friend that you see all the time. Personally, I enjoy having serious and fun technology conversations with what Nancy von Meyer, Scott Oppmann and I jokingly call “GIS grown-ups” - people with deep knowledge of the technology and a common set of interests. When you are thinking about whether to register for the Long Beach conference, remember some of these community benefits in your decision-making. I know I’m looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Also on the horizon at the 2002 Annual URISA Conference (in Chicago) is a celebration of URISA’s 40th Anniversary. Time flies! Some of you may remember some of the special sessions at the 30th Anniversary meeting. You’ll be hearing more about some of our plans for this 2002 event in coming months! We would also be glad to hear from you with any creative ideas for this special anniversary. Give a Board member or Chapter Leader a call or email with your ideas.

URISA 2001 Annual Conference Deadline Dates:

- September 17 — early registration discount deadline
- September 26 — last day to make discounted reservations at Hyatt Regency Long Beach

Free RFP Distribution!

Email your RFPs to URISA (info@urisa.org) for free distribution to corporate members.
ESRI Ad
pick up from May issue
Benefits multiply
The final step of the GASB compliance process is to leverage the results using the information technology that has been adopted. As long as an agency has to comply with GASB reporting standards, it makes sense for them to use the effort as a means to achieve additional goals. These goals can include training, economic analysis for capital renewal, an inventory control system for maintenance and repair or a reliability centered maintenance program.

As Arkansas’ system began to take shape and grow, the overall benefits began to multiply as well. Parks and Tourism managers accessing the system began experimenting with new types of reports and data, such as service-call details. From a collateral perspective, these are all easy to do. Even capital improvement plans can be derived quickly and efficiently from the system.

However, once you’ve committed to a GIS program, you have to establish policies and procedures within your organization to keep the information current. This is not a one-time process; taking inventory continues as new assets are acquired, and the data changes as existing assets are repaired, maintained or retired. An organization needs to establish a policy, if one does not already exist, to keep asset data updated and current. This is not just important for GASB 34 and 35 compliance; it is also vital for getting the full benefit of a GIS program. Let the information grow stale, and you’re right back where you started.

The ability to take a long-range look at maintenance and capital needs may be a new experience for government entities that have been accountable on a current-year basis, but it is one of the greatest benefits of GASB 34 and 35. It prompts agencies to establish an accounting standard more readily recognized by voters, legislatures and other governing bodies.

Once an agency has gone through the time and effort of assessing their assets and compiling the data required for GASB 34 and 35, and once that data has been processed into a GIS program, they will be in better shape than ever to make informed decisions about future capital needs.

Robert Underwood is program director, facilities management services in the national Facilities Division of Carter & Burgess Inc. Jeff Fitzgerald, Ph.D., is manager of GIS/Information Technology for the firm’s national Facilities Division.

GASB 34 and 35 Timetable
Compliance with GASB 34 and 35 reporting requirements is phased according to the size of an organization. The rationale is that larger organizations are more likely to already have systems and programs in place to accommodate reporting. Organization size is based on annual revenue for the first fiscal year end 1999.

- Phase 1 – Organizations with annual revenue of $100 million or more must start with the fiscal year beginning June 15, 2002.
- Phase 3 – Organizations with annual revenue under $10 million must start with the fiscal year beginning after June 15, 2003.

The effective date for retroactive reporting of information on assets built prior to 1980 is four years later. The retroactive reporting requirements are based on a government’s annual revenues, similar to the guidelines for the effective dates of compliance with Statements 34 and 35.

Call for Articles!
Submit your ideas for feature articles or case studies to wfrancis@urisa.org for inclusion in a future issue of URISA News. The deadline for submissions for the September/October issue is September 7.
Welcome New Corporate Member

Heathered in Huntsville, Alabama, ATLANTIC Technologies Inc. is a nationally recognized geographic information technology firm with over forty years of dedicated service to government and private industry.

Founded in 1961 as Atlantic Aerial Surveys by former members of Brown Engineering’s (Teledyne-Brown) dissolved mapping division, the company has become a leading provider of geospatial information, digital aerial mapping data, airborne laser survey (LiDAR) information, geospatial data, photogrammetrically engineered map products, and GIS data sets. Ownership transferred in 1989 to a limited partnership, and R. Steven Denney, a Professional Surveyor and Certified Photogrammetrist, became President and CEO. Under Steve Denney’s leadership the company moved aggressively into the informative technology and digital data age, establishing itself as the industry standard. In late 2000, ATLANTIC was acquired by MacDonald Dettwiler (MDA-TSE), a Canadian firm internationally recognized as a leading aerospace and land-information technology company. MDA currently employs a team of over 1800 aerospace industry experts.

“We’re excited about our continued growth. We have a talented team of professionals who embrace new challenges and technology,” stated ATLANTIC spokesperson Craig Dimeler, “Our position as a wholly-owned subsidiary of a major aerospace company with MDA’s reputation and resume greatly enhances our opportunities in the geo-spatial industry,” Dimeler added, “This venture will provide our associates with even greater opportunities for personal and professional growth.”

ATLANTIC’s three modern facilities, state-of-the-art equipment and instruments, and fleet of aerial mapping aircraft are operated by a team of 130 professionals. Its diversified staff includes certified photogrammetrists and mapping scientists, engineers, professional land surveyors, laser data technicians, pilots, aerial photographers, geospatial analysts, photo lab technicians, digital cartographers, and imagery analysts. With well over 1000 years of combined experience in all aspects of mapping, these professionals share a long and unique history that includes the recent digital revolution in the geospatial and mapping industry.

A sampling of recent major projects includes:
- Los Alamos Fire Fighting Support – FEMA and Corps of Engineers
- Hurricane Floyd – FEMA, State and Local Governments
- Developing a digital landbase for Jefferson County, Alabama
- Mapping major portions of the Island of Guam using LiDAR to generate topography
- Completing major mapping projects and hydrographic surveys for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Specialized product development for the National Imagery and Mapping Agency
- Development of digital orthophoto products for numerous county and municipal governments
- Creation of GIS databases for county governments

For additional information about ATLANTIC Technologies, contact Craig Dimeler, Corporate Human Resource Officer, at (256) 882-7788 or visit their web site at www.atlantictech.com.

Corporate Member List

- Analytical Surveys, Inc
- Apex Data Services, Inc.
- Atlantic Technologies
- Ayres Associates, Inc.
- BAE Systems ADR
- Bowne Management Systems, Inc.
- Camber Corporation
- DeLorme
- EarthWatch Inc.
- ESRI
- Federal Geographic Data Committee
- Genesys International Corporation
- Geographic Data Technology
- HJW GeoSpatial, Inc
- InfoTech Enterprises Ltd.
- Intergraph Corporation
- Intermap Technologies
- Kinetic Solutions, LLC
- Korea geoSpatial Info & Comm Co., LTD
- Kucera International, Inc.
- Landata Geo Services
- LizardTech, Inc.
- Merrick & Company
- Center for Geographic Sciences, Nova Scotia Community College
- PlanGraphics
- RAMTeCH Corporation
- RTSE (USA), Inc.
- The Sanborn Map Company
- Schneider Corporation
- SDS
- Space Imaging
- Surdex Corporation
- Taylor Wiseman & Taylor
- Tidemark Solutions
- UCLID Software
- URS Corporation
- Wiser & Company
Intergraph Users Conference
GeoSpatial World made its debut during June in Atlanta as Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions launched its inaugural international users conference. The conference attracted an audience of customers, prospects, and exhibitors from more than 50 countries. Intergraph’s executive management set the pace for the successful conference with company updates and the introduction of new industry solutions, products, and business partnerships that complement the company’s commitment to provide high-quality, end-to-end geospatial solutions for their global customers. More than 125 professional development sessions featured customer applications, industry solutions and products, technology previews, and technical updates.

Intergraph’s new IntelliWhere division also hosted a Location-based Services Symposium that attracted a full-house audience. Location-based services was a hot topic among conference attendees and received a lot of attention both in the IntelliWhere booth and in various presentations. One highlight included the IntelliWhere team conducting a “live” demonstration during Preetha Pulusani’s, Intergraph executive vice president, keynote presentation on the opening day.

In addition to the unlimited networking opportunities, attendees also participated in training workshops, hands-on workshops, and interactive forums. If you did not attend GeoSpatial World, you can view the conference proceedings online at http://www.intergraph.com/gis/community/geospatialworld/proceedings/.

The dates for GeoSpatial World 2002 are set for June 10-12 at the Renaissance Waverly in Atlanta.

ESRI Users Converge on the Twenty-First Annual International User Conference
More than 10,500 attendees and 200 exhibitors from 90 countries attended this annual event held at the San Diego Convention Center. Themed “Geography—Creating Communities,” the ESRI International User Conference holds to tradition in creating a true GIS community.

The plenary session kicked off the conference, featuring an overview of GIS applications and trends by Jack Dangermond, ESRI founder and president, and a keynote presentation from Dr. J. Michael Fay, an Explorer in Residence from the National Geographic Society. Attendees were able to choose from more than 225 technical workshops, 275 papers presented by the ESRI user community, and nearly 100 special interest group meetings.

One of the most popular features of the conference was Monday night’s Map Gallery. This festive evening reception featured an amazing collection of maps created by ESRI users around the world. Other popular events included the Doctor’s Office, where ESRI staff from various departments and offices throughout the world were available to answer questions from users. The Geography Network Challenge made its debut, allowing organizations to compete in a contest showcasing their live map or data hosting services created for the Geography Network, a place where people can go to publish, share, and use geographic data and services on the Web.

The 2002 ESRI conference will be held in San Diego, July 8–12.

URISA recently staffed a membership/information booth at each of these two user conferences to promote the organization. Thank you to Pam Cote (Georgia) and Greg Johnson (Chicagoland), two URISA chapter leaders who took time out of their busy schedules to help out in the booth!

URISA is Heading to Sunny Southern California!

Watch your mail for the URISA 2001 Conference Program and registration form.
The National Society of Professional Engineers recently presented the National New Product Award – Small Company division to UCLID Software. The award program recognizes exceptional engineering research and design as well as a product’s impact on the national economy.

ESRI has released a new version of ArcExplorer, the company’s GIS data viewer. ArcExplorer 3.1 allows access to Map Services on the Geography Network.

Accela and KIVA have announced their pending merger. Upon completion, the merger will give Accela a combined total of over 450 government clients. KIVA servicing federal, state and county governments since 1989, will operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Accela. The merger follows Accela’s recent acquisition of Tidemark Solutions.

Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions has released GeoMedia® PublicWorks, a new industry product targeted at local government and municipal public works departments that require sophisticated, IT-centric GIS solutions for building, analyzing, and maintaining an infrastructure network. The first release is designed for public works professionals who are responsible for the modeling, management, and analysis of water and wastewater systems.

Thanks to a joint venture between ESRI, ERDAS and NASA’s Earth Observing System Education Project at the University of Montana, geographic imaging software is being made available to every public school child and teacher in grades K-12 in the entire state of Montana. The project is the first of its kind in the United States.

Autodesk, Inc. has awarded more than $500,000 worth of software to national student organizations, SkillsUSA-VICA and the Technology Student Association (TSA), to support students preparing for technical, skilled, and service occupations.

Syncline has announced a new hosted service for publishing geographic maps and data directly to ESRI’s Geography Network.

EarthWatch has also announced a strategic software partnership with PCI Geomatics. The new partnership will license the QuickBird sensor model to PCI Geomatics for incorporation into their Geomatica software application partner suite. EarthWatch also has a new partnership with ERDAS, which will provide customers with the ability to visualize, manipulate, analyze, measure, and integrate QuickBird imagery into a wide array of 2D and 3D environments.

Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions, has acquired the SMM5 product suite from RtSe USA, Inc. (Redmond, Wash.). The products included in the deal provide tools for creating, querying, and managing standard spatial metadata and for enabling Web-access to metadata.

LizardTech’s MrSID technology has been integrated into Autodesk Map S and Land Desktop products.

Space Imaging and Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions have signed an agreement where Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions has become a global master reseller for Space Imaging. This agreement allows Intergraph customers to buy Space Imaging products directly from Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions. It also enables Intergraph resellers to sell Space Imaging’s quality imagery products.

The Map and Geography Round Table of the American Library Association has become an Associate Sponsor of GIS Day, which takes place on Wednesday, November 14, 2001.

People News

Larry Diamond, Ph.D., was recently appointed by Autodesk as the new vice president of its GIS Division, filling a key role in helping the division evolve its products and solutions. Diamond, who has been with Autodesk since 1996, brings extensive executive management experience to the position and will help Autodesk continue to deliver world-class products and end-to-end solutions that take digital design data from the back office to the front office and to the field.

Geo spatial information systems development firm Kinetic Solutions, LLC recently named David Hosking director of the company’s new Professional Services Group.

Rod Clawson has joined Merrick & Company as the Central Region Sales Manager. Mr. Clawson has over twenty years of sales and sales management experience and has been involved in GIS, photogrammetry, surveying, civil engineering and environmental sciences.

NovaLIS Technologies has recently opened three regional offices in the states of Florida, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Chris Kent, Joe Rubisch, and Steve Benner were appointed Regional Sales Managers for these respective offices.

Ross Capaccio has recently joined GeoDecisions, a division of Gannett Fleming, as the GIS Manager for the firm’s Chicago office.

The Mecklenburg County GIS Application Development Team, led by Tobin Bradley, has won yet another award. The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented the Team with its Achievement Award for its Community Crime Mapping project, an online Internet application developed for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. The product provides crime instance reporting and analysis directly to the public. View this application at http://cmpd/cicp.org/ims/default.htm

Congratulations!

BAE Systems ADR has appointed Larry Knoerl as regional manager of their recently expanded customer support office in the New England area.

Project Awards

Merrick & Company has recently completed an Internet Mapping Solution for Pottawattamie County, Iowa, built with a combination of ArcIMS, Java Script, ASP and HTML. The company was also awarded new contracts with the City of Lee’s Summit, Missouri; City of Newport Beach, California; and, Fremont County, Colorado. These contracts require photogrammetric databases to be created for use within their respective GIS programs.

Union Township, Ohio, has subscribed to Syncline’s fully automated Web-based mapping service, which is designed specifically for government and utilities. The service, MapCiti, enables municipalities to share GIS data – such as the location of police and voting districts – internally and with the public in the form of maps. Union Township will be using MapCiti to keep its 42,000 citizens better informed on a number of topics, including the location of voting precincts, and publishing maps to show where crimes are taking place in the community. Island County, Washington, has also recently subscribed to MapCiti.

RADARSAT and Infoterra of Leicestershire (UK) have signed a purchase agreement for the supply of up to 3000 RADARSAT-1 images over the next two years. The images form an integral component of Infoterra’s Global Seeps program, which provides oil seep information for offshore oil and gas basins worldwide.

HJV GeoSpatial has been selected to create a photogrammetric map of the infamous Alcatraz Island. The project was contracted by Architectural Resources Group, a leading historic preservation and planning architectural firm in San Francisco.

Resource GIS and Imaging Ltd announced the company has been awarded a contract by Space Imaging to produce a five metre resolution, colour satellite image mosaic base map of the entire country of Mexico. The image is expected to be completed by December 2001.

PlanGraphics has been awarded a contract by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) to conduct an analysis of the statewide costs and benefits associated with spatial data management in 12 state agencies.

HJV GeoSpatial has been selected to provide color infrared orthophotography for the county of Monterey.

Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions was chosen by the Local Government Computer Services Board in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, for its National Internet GIS initiative. GeoMedia WebMap will be used by 30 local authorities within the Republic.
If you haven’t had a chance to read through URISA’s Caribbean GIS Conference program on the website, do yourself a favor and check it out (www.urisa.org). The conference educational program is phenomenal. Program tracks include:

- Land Management
- Coastal Resources Management
- Urban Planning
- Business Applications
- Disaster Planning & Mitigation
- Mapping
- GIS in Public Health
- GIS Management
- GIS Policy/SDI
- Environment
- GIS Education

The track leaders have culled dynamic presentations from the record number of abstracts that were submitted for this event, and presenters from around the globe will share their experiences and knowledge with conference attendees.

Modeling Change in the Coastal Environment for Decision Making
The first presentation in this session looks at assessing change on the coastline as a result of management and use of the coastal zone. The session continues with a discussion of the possible impacts due to climate change and sea-level rise.

Visualizing Data for Health Policy and Planning
Effective dissemination of data analysis results is critical to timely and appropriate public health interventions. Risk communication outreach essential to addressing the needs of providers, decision-makers, and the public can be extended by utilizing Public Health GIS. The efficacy and effectiveness of assessing and planning service delivery may be improved for communities at all levels.

GIS Goes Underground
Learn of the peculiarities of adapting GIS to the mining industry through two case studies, one from Jamaica and the other from Chile. It is clear to see that GIS can go places, even underground.

Keynote speakers for the event are Mrs. Jacqueline daCosta, Director General, Office of Jamaica’s Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Land and Environment, and Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI. Two URISA-Certified pre-conference workshops will be presented: Introduction to GIS and Cartography and Map Design. Top GIS/IT companies will be in attendance in the exhibit hall and a number of networking activities are planned for attendees to get the most out of URISA’s inaugural Caribbean GIS Conference. Join us in the Caribbean!
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August 12-14, 2001
Street Smart & Address Savvy, Milwaukee, WI
Target audience: 911 professionals

September 9-12, 2001
Caribbean GIS Conference, Montego Bay, Jamaica
Target audience: English-speaking Caribbean government agencies

October 20-24, 2001
URISA 2001 Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA
Target audience: IT/GIS/Planning/Management professionals within state & local government

Visit www.urisa.org for details or contact Wendy Francis at URISA Headquarters (wfrancis@urisa.org)

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❑ First draft
❑ Draft No. 2 with revisions
❑ Draft No. 3 with revisions
❑ Draft No. 4 with revisions
❑ Draft No. 5 with revisions
❑ Draft No. 6 with revisions

Date Sent (JL Design) | Date Returned (Client)
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July 30 (fax) 11:30a  | July 30 (email)      
Aug 1 (PDF) 11a      | Aug 2 (fax)          
Aug 2 (PDF) 8:15am   |                      

If this is a final proof of your job, carefully review and sign off. NOTE: You should re-review all copy before approving—not just last round of revisions.

❑ Please make the following noted revisions before approval. (Do not sign below if changes need to be made.)

❑ Proof is OK—please go to print.
  I have examined this proof for spelling, color breaks, photos, and all other elements I requested. I understand that any errors found at a later time are my responsibility.

For Approved Final Proofs
I have reviewed the final proof of my job and approve it.

Signed ___________________________________________ Date ___________