

# Federal Geomatics Bulletin

the official publication of the Inter-Agency Committee on Geomatics



Government  
of Canada

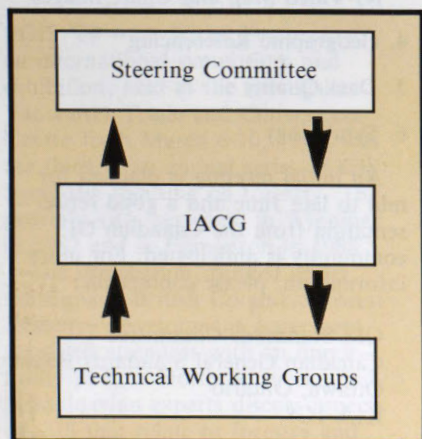
Gouvernement  
du Canada

Vol. 1, No. 2 Summer 1989

## IACG Steering Committee Approves Funding

The Steering Committee for the Inter-Agency Committee on Geomatics (SCIACG) met at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa on March 10, 1989, and approved the Terms of Reference for the IACG as well as a funding mechanism for IACG activities. The SCIACG, which comprises managers at the ADM level from participating agencies, is chaired by J. Hugh O'Donnell, ADM, Surveys, Mapping and Remote Sensing Sector, Energy, Mines and Resources. A. Doug Selley of the Canada Centre for Mapping is the administrative secretary.

The Terms of Reference approved by the Steering Committee for the IACG include: the impetus for the formation of the IACG; the major aims; the identification of specific tasks to be pursued; the composition and organization of the various committees; and, the planning and resource requirements for effective IACG operation. The organization of the IACG is as follows:



Funding for IACG activities was agreed to on a shared basis for fiscal year 1989-90. The shares will be transferred to the Canada Centre for Mapping of EMR, which will administer the funds. The following arrangement was approved:

1. EMR SMRS Sector	3 shares
2. EMR GSC Sector	1 share
3. EMR MPS Sector	1 share
4. Agriculture	1 share
5. Canada Post Corporation	1 share
6. Forestry Canada	1 share
7. Communications	1 share
8. Environment	1 share
9. Fisheries and Oceans	1 share
10. National Defence	1 share
11. Statistics Canada	1 share
12. Transport Canada	1 share
13. National Archives	1 share
Total	15 shares

The IACG Steering Committee will meet as required. For further information on the IACG Steering Committee contact:

Chairman, IACG Steering  
Committee  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Surveys, Mapping and Remote  
Sensing Sector  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
580 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E4

## GIS — Challenge for the 1990s

The National Conference on Geographic Information Systems, held in Ottawa from February 27 to March 3, was a resounding success in all respects. The conference, whose theme was "Challenge for the 1990s", was sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Surveying and Mapping (CISM) and Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. Roger Defoe, EMR, was Conference Director.

W.V. Blackie, the Executive Director of the CISM stated "We believe this conference will play a key role in directing the future course of GIS in Canada and in helping us realize the full potential of the systems available to us."

The national GIS conference provided a forum to search for, and to share, solutions to common challenges

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Surveys, Mapping and  
Remote Sensing Sector

Secteur des levés, de la  
cartographie et de la télédétection



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in the implementation, development and maintenance of a GIS.

J. Hugh O'Donnell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Surveys, Mapping and Remote Sensing Sector, EMR, officially opened the conference. Dr. Roger Tomlinson, who is generally regarded as the "father" of GIS in Canada for his work in the early 1960s on the Canada Geographic Information System, gave a presentation during the opening ceremony and held a GIS managerial overview workshop.

Workshops on remote sensing, GIS implementation and data exchange standards were also well attended.

In addition to a display area, conference exhibitors were provided with an opportunity to present papers on their latest technology and future plans at an Industrial Forum, held prior to the opening of the exhibits. Simultaneous translation was provided at the plenary sessions and during most concurrent sessions.

The conference was attended by nearly 1200 registrants, and 35 exhibitors took part. The next national con-

ference is scheduled for the Ottawa Congress Centre, March 5 to 9, 1990. The Conference Director is J.R.R. Gauthier.

For further information on the "GIS National Conference '89", please contact:

GIS National Conference '89  
Canada Centre for Mapping  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E9



Sheikh Ahmed Bin Hamad Al-Thani, right, Director of the Financial and Administrative Affairs Department, Ministry of Public Works of Qatar, is welcomed to the GIS Conference by Mr. Bruce Howe, Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

### Federal Geomatics Bulletin

This newsletter is intended as a vehicle for the communication of information on geomatics activities within the Canadian federal government. It is published several times a year under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Committee on Geomatics and is available without charge. Articles pertain to the methods, procedures and technologies associated with systems for the collection, manipulation, display and dissemination of geographically-referenced digital data.

Submissions are most welcome. Subscription requests, queries, comments or submissions may be sent to:

Federal Geomatics Bulletin  
Secretariat, IACG  
Geographic Information  
Systems Division, EMR  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E9

### Establishing a Standards Committee for National Geomatic Standards

There is a broad requirement for national GIS standards in Canada. The Standards Subcommittee of the IACG has initiated the formation of a Standards Committee under the auspices of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), which has been assigned the topic area of geomatics by the Standards Council of Canada. The CGSB provides the secretariat for the Standards Committee and ensures that the committee is balanced among various interest groups and that all interested voices are heard. The committee operates through a consensus process with members representing all levels of government, industry, universities and research organizations.

The IACG Standards Subcommittee has identified the need for standards in six areas, which are:

1. Feature Classification

2. Cataloguing

3. Data Encoding

i) Vector Data

ii) Raster Data

— Remotely Sensed Data

— Scanned Maps and Charts

iii) Digital Elevation Models  
(Matrix/Gridded Data)

iv) Video Map and Chart Images

4. Geographic Referencing

5. Data Quality

6. Symbolology

An initial meeting is planned for mid to late June and a good representation from the Canadian GIS community is anticipated. For more information, please contact the:

GIS Standards Committee  
Canadian General Standards Board  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 1G8.



## Data Specifications for the National Topographic Data Base

The Surveys, Mapping and Remote Sensing Sector recently published the preliminary version of the **Data Specifications for the National Topographic Data Base (NTDB)**.

These specifications, which define the characteristics of digital topographic data, deal mainly with the content, accuracy and modelling of the data that will be found in the NTDB. The specifications are meant for producers, managers and users of national digital topographic data.

The preliminary version is intended to generate comments. For this purpose, the Sector has set up a consultation process, to be followed by the publication of the final version of the specifications. This consultation was scheduled to be completed by May 10, 1989. The publication of the final version will depend on the number of comments and the extent of corrections required.

The Canada Centre for Geomatics, along with the Topographical Mapping Division of the Canada Centre for Mapping, have worked together on these specifications which, once completed, should satisfy expressed needs and serve as the cornerstone for upcoming developments in this field.

For further information, please contact the:

Canada Centre for Geomatics  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
Canada  
2144 King Street W., Suite 200  
Sherbrooke, Quebec  
J1J 2E8

## GIS '89 Symposium — Vancouver

"GIS '89 — A Wider Perspective", an international symposium and exhibition, held at the spectacular Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre from March 6-10, 1989, was the third in an annual series of GIS Symposia focusing on forestry. The previous two were held in Winnipeg in 1987 and in Edmonton in 1988.

The symposium, funded under the Canada-British Columbia Forest Resource Development Agreement, provided attendees with an opportunity to hear North American and Scandinavian experts discuss aspects of GIS that relate to forestry and resource management.



photo: Studio 54  
Vancouver, B.C.

GIS '89 Symposium co-chairmen Martin Vennesland, President of Reid Collins and Associates Limited and Dr. Michael J. Heit, Senior Program Director of Forest Development, Forestry Canada, indicated that "We can be proud that Canadian governments at the federal and provincial levels were the first to recognize the significance of GIS technology for the management of land-based information, and that they continue to support it. The presence of so many delegates at GIS '89 demonstrates that industry is more aware of the critical importance of the successful implementation of GIS technology in forestry. During the next decade, Canadian firms with GIS capability will have a competitive advantage in analyzing the cost and availability of wood fibre, and in assessing the impact of land alienations."

GIS '89 was officially opened by The Honourable Frank Oberle, Minister of State for Forestry. Plenary and concurrent technical sessions on various GIS topics took place during the three-day symposium. Pre-symposium workshops and hands-on tutorials were also offered to delegates.

**The Honourable Frank Oberle, Minister of State for Forestry, cuts the ribbon to officially open the GIS '89 Symposium in Vancouver. Taking part in the ceremony are Dr. Michael J. Heit (left), Senior Program Director of Forest Development, Forestry Canada, and Martin Vennesland, President of Reid Collins and Associates Ltd.**

The symposium attracted nearly 800 delegates and over 30 exhibitors.

During the last session of GIS '89, the organizing committee announced that GIS '90 will be held at Canada Place, Vancouver, B.C. from March 13-16, 1990. Volunteers are welcome.

Further information on the GIS '90 symposium may be obtained from:

GIS '90 Reid Collins and  
Associates Ltd.  
1550-401 West Georgia St.,  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6B 5A1

OR

GIS '90 Forestry Canada  
506 West Burnside Rd.,  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8Z 1M5

## Names, Names, Names

The National Toponymic Data Base is the authoritative data base of geographic names information for Canada, maintained by the Toponymy Section, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. The data base, for use by all federal agencies and the public at large, presently contains approximately 484 500 toponyms and associated

names information dating from 1897. Seventy-five percent of the information represents official names approved by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN).

The data base is the means by which the Toponymy Section responds to large-volume requests for geogra-

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phical names information; specifically, to compile names lists for the Topographical Mapping Program and special purpose base mapping, to produce the Gazetteer of Canada series, and to quickly respond to names requests for specified fields of information, with outputs being made available in magnetic tape, diskette or hardcopy format.

The future of the data base looks very exciting. External access to the data base through the use of dial-up facilities will soon be in place. This facility may be used for remote demonstrations of the system and system support, as well as for viewing the data base, by approved users.

For further information regarding the National Toponymic Data Base, please contact the:

Toponymy Section  
National Atlas Information Service  
Canada Centre for Mapping  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
615 Booth St., Rm 650  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E9

### EMR Creates GIS Division

The Surveys, Mapping and Remote Sensing Sector of Energy, Mines and Resources has created a Geographic Information Systems Division within the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister. The mandate of the new division is: to develop and maintain national GIS standards; to promote and coordinate the development and application of GIS within federal, provincial and municipal governments; and to support the development of a Canadian GIS industry.

The GIS Division, under Director Zul Jiwani, will coordinate GIS activities to avoid duplication of effort and to stimulate data sharing. Promotion of expertise in the private sector will be supported by innovative applica-

tions of GIS technology. The division will help coordinate R&D activities in government, industry and academic institutions. In addition, support for the development of GIS curriculums within academic institutions will assist in the development of expertise in the Canadian workforce in the future. The division will ensure the efficient transfer of technology from all sources to the Canadian private sector, for exploitation.

For a brochure or further information on the GIS Division, please contact:

Geographic Information Systems  
Division  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
Canada  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E9

### IACG Conducting Data Base Survey

The Government Data Bases Technical Working Group of the IACG is preparing a comprehensive survey of current and historical geomatics data holdings (both conventional and digital) within the Canadian federal government. This survey will be completed within fiscal year 1989-90 and the published results will be widely available to the public.

If you wish to have your data included in the survey or, if you would like to obtain more information, please contact:

Data Base Survey  
Geographic Information Systems  
Division  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
Canada  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E9

### GIS Calendar of Events — 1989

#### June / July

GIS Conference, Towson State U.,  
Towson, MD;

**June 6-8.**

Canadian Cartographic Association  
Annual Meeting, Halifax, NS;

**June 7-9.**

Geomatics Canada '89, CISM  
Conference, Halifax, NS;

**June 8-10.**

International Conference on the  
History of Cartography, Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands;

**June 25-July 1.**

International Geological Congress,  
Washington, DC;

**July 9-19.**

IGARSS '89 and 12th Canadian  
Symposium on Remote Sensing,  
Vancouver, BC;

**July 10-14.**

#### August / September

URISA '89, Boston, MA;

**August 6-10.**

5th Workshop on MicroComputers for  
GIS, Bangkok, Thailand;

**August 7-25.**

14th International Cartographic  
Conference, Budapest, Hungary;

**August 17-24.**

RSS Annual Technical Meeting,  
Bristol, UK;

**September 13-15.**

ASPRS/ACSM Fall Technical Meet-  
ing, Cleveland, OH;

**September 17-22.**

#### October

7th Thematic Conference on Remote  
Sensing for Exploration Geology,  
Calgary, AL;

**October 2-6.**



# CALL FOR PAPERS

## SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### Geographic Information Systems



#### SEND ABSTRACTS TO

Papers Committee  
GIS for the 90s  
Canadian Institute of  
Surveying Mapping  
P.O. Box 5378, Station F  
Ottawa, Canada K2C 3J1

FAX: (613) 224-9577

#### ORGANIZED BY:



**The Canadian Institute of  
Surveying and Mapping**

IN COOPERATION WITH:  
**The Inter-Agency Committee on  
Geomatics  
and  
Surveys, Mapping and Remote  
Sensing Sector, EMR**

#### CO-SPONSORED BY

American Congress on  
Surveying and Mapping  
American Society of Photogrammetry  
and Remote Sensing  
Association of American Geographers  
Canadian Association of Geographers  
Canadian Cartographic Association  
Canadian Hydrographic Association  
Geomatics Industry Association  
of Canada  
Spatially-Oriented Referencing  
Systems Association

## *GIS for the 90s*

### March 5 to 8, 1990

**Ottawa Congress Centre, Ottawa, Canada**

The First National GIS Conference in 1989 was a resounding success, with almost twelve hundred participants registered! *GIS for the 90s*, the Second National GIS Conference will include: plenary and concurrent sessions, panel discussions, workshops, an industrial forum, exhibits, and technical tours.

#### ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

- Deadline:** September 30, 1989  
**Proposal:** Title and abstract (English or French), double spaced, less than 200 words. Authors name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone and FAX numbers  
**Acceptance:** Papers will be selected on the basis of originality, scope and relevance to the Conference themes  
**Publication:** Proceedings will be prepublished

#### CONFERENCE THEMES

- APPLICATIONS • CASE STUDIES • ISSUES •
  - Natural Resources • Environment • Emergency/Hazard Management •
  - Earth Sciences • Forestry • Communication • Electrical • Oil and Gas •
  - GIS in Government (Federal, Provincial and Municipal) and Industry •
- Urban Planning • Land Management/Cadastral • Policy and Decision Making •
- Market Research • Implementation of GIS Technology • GIS/AM/FM •
  - Electronic Charts and Maps for Vehicle Navigation and Control •
- Intergovernmental and Government-Industry Issues • Cost/Benefit •
  - Administration, Management and Policy Issues •
- DATA DISSEMINATION •
  - Value Added Geographic Data • Conventions, Standards and Policies •
  - Electronic Networks • Data Communication •
- ROLES OF GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND ACADEME •
  - Technology Transfer • Technology Infrastructure •
- Centers of Excellence • Marketing of GIS Technology, Products and Services •
  - Data Evaluation and Marketing • Adapting to Evolving Requirements •
- TECHNOLOGY • HARDWARE • SOFTWARE • METHODOLOGY • RESEARCH •
  - Data Capture and Analysis • Data Structures • Data Storage and Retrieval •
  - Geographic Data Bases • Data Base Development and Management • DBMS •
  - Knowledge Based GIS • Computational Geometry • Modelling • Standards •
- Remote Sensing and GIS • Data Integration • GIS Technologies and Artificial Intelligence •
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING •
  - Curricula • University Research • Technological Skills • Theories • Concepts •