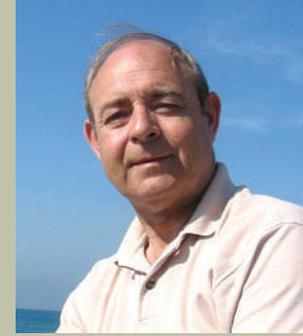




ENVITIA Launches MapLink Pro 10.0

ENVITIA is proud to announce the release of the next generation of **MapLink Pro** centered around the theme of **speed**. Speed in visualisation of dynamic data, speed in the manipulation of complex spatial data and speed to market. **MapLink Pro 10.0** is a powerful suite of SDKs that provides users with the ability to embed high performance mapping and visualisation capabilities for mission critical systems. MapLink Pro is a toolkit optimised for visualisation of and interaction with geospatial data. It provides support for a range of mapping capabilities, specialising in Terrain Analysis, 3D Visualisation, Track Object and Geometry Manipulation, and Cloud-Based GEOINT Delivery. MapLink Pro has more than 10,000 deployed systems worldwide and is the geospatial toolkit of choice for the world's leading System Integrators. www.envitia.com



Peter
Fitzgibbon,
Editor

Ready for a new reality?

The arrival of Microsoft's HoloLens Development Edition headset for the UK market takes us a step closer to making Augmented Reality (AR) a practical proposition for the enterprise - as distinct to consumer games - market.

While some have commented on the restricted Field of View of this first self-contained, holographic computer, there is general agreement that the quality of the wearable device and its freedom from a trailing umbilical (thanks to an inbuilt custom GPU) represents a breakthrough in both form and function.

A pre-order price tag of £2,719 may limit its uptake, but for AEC and GIS professionals the HoloLens opens up a world of possibilities for exploring part-real, part-virtual physical environments, whether cityscape, engineering design or elevation model. It may not have quite the same wow factor as entering a room-sized immersive 3D visualisation system such as that pioneered at the University of Illinois in the early 1990s. But it is certainly more usable - and several millions of pounds cheaper.

Of course, its commercial success will depend on content and some go largely free holographic applications are already on offer via the Microsoft Store. In the AEC sector, Trimble and Hexagon have been quick off the mark to exploit and demonstrate the technology, the former for its lifecycle Design-Build-Operate solutions and the latter for Intergraph's next-generation Process, Power & Marine modelling software.

Leica, too, has been busy with a joint HoloLens and Autodesk Fusion 360 project that targets engineering and industrial design, while Esri demonstrated the use of ArcGIS Runtime with HoloLens to an appreciative audience at last year's World User Conference. As Esri's Adrien Meriaux noted, the technology is not simply about the personal experience of interacting with a model, but rather its potential for sharing and collaborating with others.

Analysts forecast that AR revenues will hit US\$120 billion by 2020 and this could be down to the finding of one report that 67% of businesses are considering using AR in the future, while 47% are considering VR for the future. It looks like it will change everything in our lives in a few years' time, but it's starting now.

1Spatial & National Trust Streamline Agricultural Grant Process

When the **National Trust** migrated to ArcGIS recently, **1Spatial** supplied **Geocortex Essentials** as a solution for creating custom applications on top of the ArcGIS platform. With consultancy services from 1Spatial, the National Trust created a solution that has significantly streamlined its data collection and validation process for agricultural grant applications. **Conservation Core Data Lead, Chris Cawser**, says "We are placing total control of data verification in the hands of the staff who have the knowledge about what is being collected. The whole data collection experience has improved massively for site monitors and it's been really positively received. The use of Geocortex Essentials means we now avoid the 'Are you sure this is correct?' phone calls, which saves everyone's time and reduces frustration." www.1spatial.com

RGS-IBG and AGI announce strategic alliance

The **Royal Geographical Society** (with **IBG**) and the **Association for Geographic Information** announce a strategic alliance, working closely together to advance the understanding and use of geographic information. Together they will provide a stronger voice for professional geography in areas and with audiences who can benefit from a better understanding of the roles geographic information and associated technologies, and from using location intelligence, geospatial data analytics and data integration. The approach will be one of championing the increased use of geographic information to raise awareness, change behaviours, influence market growth, and inform business, policy and community decisions. www.rgs.org www.agi.org.uk





Lorry drivers must use commercial satnavs, say councils

All lorry drivers who use satnavs should be compelled to use commercial models say councils – following a fresh catalogue of chaos on the nation's roads. The **Local Government Association (LGA)**, which represents more than 370 councils in England and Wales, says that while the majority of lorry drivers are reputable and responsible, a minority cut corners by using cheaper satnavs designed for cars. Villages and rural communities across the country have been blighted by a recent spate of lorry smashes. Lorry satnavs are like normal car satnavs, but they include bridge heights, narrow roads, and roads unsuitable for trucks. In addition, they allow the driver to enter the lorry's dimensions - height, width, weight and load – so they are only guided along suitable roads. www.local.gov.uk

Surrey Heath Council Explore the Versatility of the Arrow 100.

Surrey Heath Borough Council has found their current GIS kit is proving to be more versatile than expected! The team at based in Camberley in Surrey has been successfully using the **Eos Positioning Systems Arrow 100** to capture grounds maintenance data after it was recommended by Eos's exclusive UK distributor **MGISS** just over a year ago. They wanted to be able to manage their grounds maintenance more effectively and finding new ways of achieving this in a way that saves money and manpower is always advantageous to local authorities many of which now share services with other councils which have to consider the spend comes out of the taxpayer's pocket. www.mgiss.co.uk

Bluesky and Bird.i Join Forces to Widen Access to Aerial Imagery

Bluesky has signed a strategic partnership agreement with **Bird.i** to provide online, instantaneous visualisation of its high-resolution aerial imagery. Bluesky has created and maintains the highest resolution, most up to date and accurate nationwide archive of aerial images in the UK. Established in 2016, Bird.i has developed a unique platform for accessing satellite, airborne and UAV imagery with a plug and play API that works within mapping and location based applications. The agreement between the two companies will give subscribers to Bird.i's easy to use API the ability to integrate Bluesky's high quality aerial images within their existing mapping applications and location based services. www.bluesky-world.com www.hibirdi.com



3D Repo BIM App helps Crossrail Digitally Manage Assets

3D Repo has started development on a unique mobile platform for **Crossrail** designed to manage maintainable assets. The cloud-based innovation by 3D Repo brings together previously disparate databases and information sources to provide on-site, instant access, to both historical and real-time information. Working with Crossrail, 3D Repo has demonstrated integration between information already held within asset lifecycle information management software. 3D Repo's mobile platform will also let project managers, maintenance personnel and stakeholders access different 3D views of an asset allowing them to select information that is most relevant to them for the purposes of installation, snagging and commissioning. www.3drepo.org

New Ordnance Survey Champion, Ben Fogle, urges nation to GetOutside

Adventurer, author and broadcaster **Ben Fogle**, is **Ordnance Survey's** newest **Champion**, and is supporting OS in tackling the challenge of helping Britain become a more outdoorsy and adventurous nation. Ben links up with current OS Champion, the endurance adventurer **Sean Conway**. Ben's not the only new face to OS's campaign. He and Sean are joined by 35 regional OS Champions, who are also tasked with motivating the public to GetOutside. Ben, chosen by OS for his obvious love for the open-air, says: "There are some truly remarkable and inspirational people in this group, and it is an honour and delight to be joining them for what I think is an important campaign, making the outdoors enjoyable, accessible and safe." www.os.uk



Masternaut appoints Olivier Mansard as Vice President of Global Sales

Olivier Mansard has joined **Masternaut** from SAP France, where he was Head of Cloud and Line of Business. Olivier's appointment comes at a time when Masternaut is rapidly expanding its customer service, sales and marketing teams by promoting internally and attracting top international talent from outside the business. Masternaut also boasts the largest R&D team in Europe, which has doubled in size over the last year in order to create new, innovative telematics developments ahead of the rest of the industry. **Dhruv Parekh, CEO, Masternaut** commented, "Olivier is an exciting addition to the Masternaut family who brings with him a wealth of experience in leading international sales organisations, at a time when we are aggressively expanding." www.masternaut.com

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