



Airwave releases report on public safety innovation

In a landmark report, public safety communications expert **Airwave** sets out the challenges that the government, public services and industry need to overcome in order to realize the potential of data-reliant technologies. The **Blue Light Futures** report offers seven recommendations that will help ensure the long-term resilience of the emergency services and drive public safety. Chief amongst these is the formation of a multidisciplinary working group comprised of key government departments, public safety professionals and industry experts to ensure that we have the right data systems, security controls and risk management plans in place to fully realize the benefits of new technology. www.airwavesolutions.co.uk

Four in ten business drivers issued with penalty points when driving at work

Almost four in ten business drivers have been given points on their license from work-related driving offences, according to research from **Masternaut**. Almost two-thirds (62%) of those with points on their license were from speeding offences. **Masternaut Connect** is shown to improve driver behaviour, reducing instances of speeding as well as harsh braking, acceleration and cornering. UK businesses and fleet managers can easily implement a **driver training programme** using data and insight gained from Masternaut Connect. By collating information on driver behaviour, **Connect** can give an in-depth look at how businesses can improve driving standards within the workforce, helping to reduce the amount of penalty points and fines given to drivers. www.masternaut.com.

eeGeo Launches Global 3D Mapping Platform

eeGeo has launched its geospatial meta-mapping platform, which enables organisations to build interactive mobile applications to deliver content and location-based information. The eeGeo platform enables businesses across a range of sectors to easily visualise complex data sets on a geospatially accurate representation of the interior and exterior world. The platform is disrupting the industry through enabling customers to deliver engaging, compelling and differentiated 3D map experiences. "The world is a three dimensional space and our platform accurately represents this as a global 3D map, transitioning seamlessly from outdoors with detail of all terrain, roads and landmarks, to the interior of buildings, right down to office, desk or counter level," said **Ian Hetherington**, CEO, eeGeo. www.eegeo.com



Award-winning viaEuropa map services now available on G-Cloud 7

Europa Technologies' latest version of its acclaimed **viaEuropa** map service has been accepted into **G-Cloud 7** – the latest iteration of the UK Government's cloud computing framework. Since its launch in 2010, the viaEuropa service has been honed and developed to meet the increasing demands of public sector organisations. The service provides access to a multipurpose base map covering the whole of Great Britain compatible with a broad range of desktop mapping applications and web mapping APIs. The updated service offers various entry levels to suit all sizes of public sector bodies and their anticipated usage. New tiers have been added for higher traffic users thus giving even greater value for money. www.europa.uk.



Peter
Fitzgibbon,
Editor

Prevention is better than cure

Early December saw insurance assessors and loss adjusters setting to work in the wake of Storm Desmond. A timely moment, then, for Ordnance Survey and flood risk mapping specialists Ambiental to host a well-attended breakfast meeting at the Lloyds building in central London.

It provided an opportunity for the hosts, supported by Michael Wade, Crown Representative for Insurance at the Cabinet Office, to outline the ramifications and challenges of Flood Re, a Treasury-backed initiative that, from April, will place a levy on the insurance industry and, in return, underwrite insurance for home owners in flood-prone areas who could otherwise be faced with unaffordable premiums and/or insufficient levels of cover.¹

With some 2.3 million homes at risk of flooding in England and Wales, a fifth of them in the highest risk category, it's no small challenge. As Aidan Kerr, Director of Operations for Flood Re noted in alluding to the house building surge announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. "It would be a real failure if Flood Re acted as an incentive for poor planning decisions. Properties built post-2009 don't currently fall within the scope of Flood Re, so local authorities should take full account of flood risk, mindful that new-builds will require insurance in the open market."

As always, balancing risk and reward is the fundamental challenge for the insurance industry. Cede too many properties to Flood Re and an insurer sacrifices premium income; cede too few and it assumes a higher and perhaps unacceptable level of risk.

Good news, then, that the spatial, temporal and address datasets now available, bolstered by recent research into flood cycles at the University of Durham, can be employed in a holistic manner to model flood risk down to property level. This will help insurers avoid over-classifying areas at risk and needlessly blighting entire neighbourhoods in the process.

With a proposed Government spend of £2.3bn on flood prevention measures over the next six years, geoinformation will play an equally important role in getting the best return on that investment too.

¹ www.floodre.co.uk.



It's all in a day's work for Surrey Heath thanks to MGISS!

The team at Surrey Heath Borough Council realised that they needed an effective GIS to be able to manage the level of grounds maintenance required, and so they took on a temporary contractor to carry out the data capture project, which was costly for the organisation. In searching for a replacement, GIS Manager James Rutter recommended the EOS Positioning Systems Arrow 100 by MGISS and discovered the Fulcrum Cloud service, which is designed for non-specialists. The Fulcrum app is used on a smartphone or tablet, which is a big attraction as it allows Surrey Heath to use consumer grade hardware that keeps costs down. www.mgiss.co.uk

MapAction Supports Co-ordination of the Refugee Crisis in the Mediterranean

MapAction is deploying volunteers to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) offices in Athens, Belgrade and Geneva to support the coordination of the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean. Europe is experiencing a movement of people on a scale not seen since the Second World War, more than 600,000 people have arrived in Europe by sea during 2015 alone. A key challenge is understanding this mass movement of people, so that relief efforts can be coordinated and targeted effectively. This takes on a strong geographical dimension, which is of course where MapAction can play a vital role. This is an unusual mission for MapAction who typically only deploy to countries where technical mapping skills are in short supply and sudden onset disasters have overwhelmed existing capacity. www.mapaction.org

OS maps play a role in the new UK passports

Launched at Shakespeare's Globe in London, the theme for the new UK passport is 'Creative United Kingdom'. The latest UK passport design was released with a range of mapping from OS OpenData across the pages. Representing all four countries in the UK, the new designs also incorporate the latest in printing technology to ensure the security of the document remains the top priority. OS maps form a part of the security features, with OS OpenData being used across many of the new passport pages. HM Passport Office has stylized vector maps to fit within the new design, showcasing the area linked to the featured icons. Examples of the maps include the iconic innovations pages including Sir Antony Gormley's famous Angel of the North. www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk



70% of Exhibit Space Sold at GEO Business 2016

GEO Business 2016, has announced that 70% of exhibit space was already sold by the end of November! In just three years, the GEO Business conference has experienced remarkable growth in both the number of its exhibitors and attendees; it really has established itself as the annual showcase for the geospatial industry. GEO Business is where everyone involved in the gathering, storing, processing and delivering of geospatial information meets with customers and prospects from around the world, to demonstrate and present their latest exciting developments and technological updates. The event attracts visitors from across the geospatial community including the GIS, Surveying, Mapping, Transport, Remote Sensing, Environmental and Hydrographic industries. The next event will take place in London, UK from 24 - 25 May 2016. www.GeoBusinessShow.com



Smartphone Technology Revolutionizing Railway Maintenance

Network Rail has rolled out more than 25,000 iOS devices to its workforce, with more than 18,000 of these across its frontline maintenance, operations, and safety and engineering teams. The introduction has helped modernise the workforce, banishing bulky and impractical paperwork and improving the performance and safety of those working on the railway. The paperless railway has been aided by the development of more than 60 unique mobile apps created in-house by Network Rail. The apps help provide staff with the latest technical data, GPS locations, and streamlined reporting. Gone forever are the cumbersome reference books, ambiguously located trouble spots, and rain-soaked paperwork that slowed the repair process. The 'Where am I?' app locates, within a few metres, faults and incidents for ground-based maintenance teams and emergency service units to respond to. www.networkrail.co.uk

A New Era for Raster Charts from OceanWise

OceanWise has developed a set of specialist tools and methodology to identify specific content from Raster Charts. OceanWise has created a product, which can be used seamlessly alongside terrestrial data and as a result is a more consistent and useful dataset for customers. The first paper nautical chart was scanned and georeferenced over three decades ago and is difficult to use efficiently within GIS software and map making solutions. Mainly due to the chart being designed for use as a finished map in isolation. The new product Raster Charts XL aims to solve this issue and OceanWise is now rolling it out as an optional upgrade to its existing Raster Chart data products initially for UK waters before focusing on updating its entire global holdings. www.oceanwise.eu