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Editor

Firelink extends their contract with Airwave

Airwave is pleased to announce that all Fire and Rescue Services in England, Wales and Scotland will continue to use Airwave's secure and resilient Service until at least December 2019. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has approved a "major extension" of the Firelink Project Agreement for a further 36 months with a further option to extend for an additional 12 months until end-December 2020. Airwave's Network and Service were borne out of the need for all emergency services (police, fire and ambulance) in Great Britain to have access to a secure and reliable communications network with unrivalled coverage across the length and breadth of the country. www.airwavesolutions.co.uk

AVEVA signs new multiyear agreement with Aker Solutions

AVEVA has entered a multiyear agreement with Aker Solutions for AVEVA Everything3D (AVEVA E3D). The Norwegian oil service company has selected AVEVA E3D to be its strategic 3D tool on plant design, modification and maintenance projects. This agreement is a continuation of a long standing successful working relationship that spans more than 20 years. Richard Longdon, CEO, AVEVA said. "We are very proud to be continuing our long standing working relationship with Aker Solutions. Together we have advanced the development of our technology over many years and will continue to contribute to our strategic vision of a Digital Asset." Dave Wheeldon, CTO, AVEVA added, "Using AVEVA software, allows companies to seamlessly integrate key business processes, improving the quality of deliverables against critical project schedules." www.aveva.com

Ordnance Survey maps undergo their greatest innovation for over 200 years

Ordnance Survey has started to replace all 607 of its current paper map titles with a new design and an additional mobile download of the map that can be accessed for no extra cost. June 10th saw the start of the OS Explorer Outdoor Leisure (OL) paper maps hitting retailers' shelves. The Outdoor Leisure maps, which cover all of Britain's national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty, will come with an iOS and Android compatible download of the area covered by the map. All the map data is stored locally and is available regardless of whether your smart device has a signal or not, making it perfect for even the remotest areas. www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Nautricity wins Cleantech Award

Nautricity, a spinout company from The University of Strathclyde, has been named Spinout Company of the Year at the New Energy and Cleantech Awards. The award was presented to Nautricity's environmental policy analyst Stephanie Conesa at an awards dinner at the Park Plaza, in London. Cameron Johnstone, the company's chief executive, said: "We are both delighted and humbled to receive this level of recognition. It complements the sterling efforts and hard work of Nautricity's team in the scaling up and delivery of our technology to the market." Felicia Jackson, Editor-at-Large at Cleantech Investor said: "This award salutes the university spin-out that has produced groundbreaking new energy or cleantech innovation and been catapulted into the world of business." www.nautricity.com

Flying the flag

With exported goods and services accounting for around a third of Britain's GDP, readers will be heartened to read elsewhere in this issue of the biggest yet UK Pavilion at September's INTERGEO expo in Stuttgart. Hosted by GEOConnexion Magazine, the export-oriented showcase has doubled in size year-on-year since 2013 and provides an affordable and prime-sited platform for British businesses to present geospatial products and services to an expected 16,000 visitors from more than 90 countries.

Those arriving at Stuttgart airport, as elsewhere, will doubtless have travelled in the hope that today's avionics are immune to malicious in-flight interference. And while our review in the last issue (and continued online in this issue) raised the issue of GNSS signal jamming and spoofing as a growing threat, air travel has been regarded as somewhat less vulnerable due to the level of redundancy built into airborne navigation systems.

Worrying then, to hear that one Chris Roberts, a prominent hacker and founder of Denver-based cyber intelligence firm One World Labs, is currently the subject of an FBI probe into his own claim that, as a passenger, he hacked into Boeing 737 and Airbus avionics on multiple occasions between 2011 and 2014. The Trojan Horse employed for the purpose was no more than a laptop and an Ethernet connection to an electronics unit for the in-flight entertainment system that can be found under certain passenger seats and which provides a pathway into critical onboard systems including navigation aids.

According to Roberts, when interviewed by Fox News, the hack is fairly complex but do-able. If so, will it mean that laptops, tablets and even smartphones become even more suspect carry-on items, with all the burdensome checks this might entail?

Of course, it would help if there was a set of standard tests that helped users select the best GNSS equipment for an application based on its degree of protection against jamming, spoofing and hacking. It would both act as a deterrent and provide reassurance to travellers everywhere.