Rezatec's peatland Earth Observation satellite techniques assist Scottish Water

Rezatec is working with Scottish Water to help assess peatland integrity across remote parts of their catchments to help protect and improve the quality of their source water. High-resolution Earth Observation (EO) data has been calibrated with spatial land cover and peat depth data to provide an accurate picture of peatland structure and integrity. "This not only helps to protect the environment but it will potentially reduce the cost of providing a clear fresh public water supply." said **Zoë Frogbrook, Technical lead for Catchment Management, Scottish Water**. Rezatec's landscape intelligence platform offers a cost-effective way of measuring peat extent and how intact it is over wide and potentially remote areas that are otherwise expensive to measure or inaccessible from the ground. **www.rezatec.com**

Landmark awarded OS contract to maintain MasterMap® digital mapping database

Landmark Solutions has been selected as one of four companies that will maintain **Ordnance Survey's** flagship **MasterMap®** digital mapping database, over the next four years. OS MasterMap® is Great Britain's most accurate and comprehensive geographic record containing over 450 million real-world features including individual addresses to roads and buildings. It contains a suite of different layers, each of which provides a different aspect of valuable mapping data for use in a Geographic Information system (GIS). The continually updated database underpins Ordnance Survey's full range of digital mapping products. As part of the contract, Landmark has formed a specialist team of personnel to handle all requirements. **www.landmark.co.uk**.

OS Partners with Abu Dhabi Environment Agency with new GIS Roadmap

Abu Dhabi Environment Agency (EAD) is closer to establishing itself as a leader within the global environmental community through the development of a partnership with **Ordnance Survey International** and the creation of a new **GIS Roadmap**. EAD is committed to significantly improving the environmental sustainability of the Emirate and becoming a global advocate for environmental protection and sustainable living. To achieve this vision, EAD embarked on a comprehensive geospatial transformation programme. OS International submitted a proposal for this strategic project and was selected to develop the new Roadmap in partnership with EAD and its stakeholders. The new Roadmap was created in accordance with the 'GIS Roadmap Framework' and was developed, delivered and completed on 15 April 2015. **www.os.uk/eadgisroadmap**

ABPmer develops good practice for Scottish shellfish aquaculture planning

ABPmer has been commissioned by **SARF** to review all aspects of shellfish farm planning considerations and related decision making processes in Scotland to help ensure a consistent approach to sustainable development of the industry. The expansion of shellfish aquaculture is recognised as having the potential to contribute to food security as well as providing a healthy source of protein. The shellfish aquaculture industry in Scotland is aiming to double production volumes by 2020 compared to 2012, a target which is alluded to in Scotland's National Marine Plan. This requires consistent and effective regulation of shellfish aquaculture to protect the marine environment but which does not unnecessarily constrain expansion. **www.abpmer.co.uk**

Peter Fitzgibbon, Editor

Drones: what goes up ...

... could risk a hard landing. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) have been catapulted, quite literally, into the limelight of late, not least in this current issue. No less than three dedicated trade shows are being staged in the UK to promote airframes, control systems, payloads and services, and with the likes of Amazon, Google and Sony intent on exploiting the technology, the future looks bright.

Indeed, a recent House of Lords report reckons that the potential for jobs from drones could be as many as 150,000 by the year 2050. Even so, Baroness O'Cathain, sounded a note of caution. "But there's also a risk — public understanding of how to use drones safely may not keep pace with people's appetite to fly them. It would just take one disastrous accident to destroy public confidence and set the whole industry back."

Much depends on regulation of platforms that range from consumer toys to highly sophisticated systems. In the UK, a constant drip feed of concerns over security, safety and privacy has provided ammunition for campaigners. Most recently, the Government has been forced to publish a list of drones use by Whitehall departments, release summaries of meetings held by the somewhat reclusive Cross-Government Working Group responsible for drone policy, and establish an "oversight board" to make drone policy more transparent.

The Civil Aviation Authority has also weighed-in with a new drone awareness initiative that highlights the risk of collision with commercial aircraft. For Tim Johnson, CAA Director of Policy, the initiative "... sets out the simple rules that all drone users should follow to ensure they comply with the law and support the safety of all airspace. If they do this they can avoid prosecution and a possible jail term or fine." Few of the 300 organisations in the UK that are licensed to use drones for commercial or government purposes will need reminding of this. But what of the growing army of individuals and groups that aren't? It could be a bumpy ride.

Pointfuse 1.1 Update now available

Arithmetica has announced the release of **Pointfuse 1.1**, available to trial from the Pointfuse website. The new release of **Pointfuse Pro** now **automatically textures** the generated 3D models using RGB, intensity or statistical derived values. Using the original RGB values from the point cloud the software can now automatically add real world context to the generated models that can be exported to **DAE** or **OBJ** format. **Scaled Ortho Images** from the point cloud are another key feature. These can be used alongside Pointfuse generated vectors or, independent workflows to produce plans, elevations or sections, using third party CAD and modelling software. Ortho images can be created from any angle and direction producing high resolution scaled images used to draw, measure or take dimensions from. **www.arithmetica.com**

ENVITIA to deliver Defence Geospatial Services to the UK MOD

ENVITIA has been awarded a contract by **HP Enterprise Services UK** to deliver, in partnership, the first phase of the **Defence Geospatial Services** (DGS) programme to the **UK Ministry of Defence**. DGS will provide a step change to the **Situational Awareness** capability in Defence allowing them to react to crises worldwide in a more effective and efficient manner. Under the contract, ENVITIA and HP will provide a system that will deliver foundation **GEOINT** across the **MOD** enterprise, enabling Military personnel and MOD Civil Servants to search, discover and retrieve foundation GEOINT directly from their DII terminals. "ENVITIA is delighted to be working in partnership with HP and the UK Ministry of Defence to deliver this important new capability." said **Mark Richardson, ENVITIA Business Development Manager**. **www.envitia.com**

Keynetix and BGS to develop BIM for the subsurface

A cloud-based database of UK geological and geotechnical data and 3D ground models could soon become a reality, thanks to new research led by geotechnical data company **Keynetix** and the **British Geological Survey** (BGS). "Unforeseen ground conditions continue to be a major cause of project delays and construction programme overruns," explained **Gary Morin, Technical Director, Keynetix**, who is leading the research team. "A big problem is the limited availability of high quality geotechnical data, which is stored mainly in project archives. If this was publically-available, construction teams could access better data, site investigations would be more focused and ground risk reduced, saving time and money." The two year, £540,000 BIM for the subsurface project is funded by Innovate UK under its Digitising the Construction Industry initiative. **www.keynetix.com/bimforthesubsurface**

SSTL celebrates 30 Years of Space Innovation

Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) is celebrating 30 years of space innovation this year, marking the anniversary of the founding of the Company in June 1985. **Sir Martin Sweeting, Founder and Executive Chairman**, gave a short speech to staff, reminding them of their achievements and looking forward to future years of innovation, with space hardware beyond Earth's orbit firmly on SSTL's wish list. The SSTL story is a showcase of British ingenuity, ambition and innovation in space engineering which has propelled the Company to the forefront of the small satellite industry. From its humble beginnings the Company now employs 500 staff and assembles multiple satellites and space hardware in a suite of state-of-the-art cleanrooms and laboratories. **www.sstl.co.uk**

Smart driving for Wolseley UK

Wolseley UK has introduced **Masternaut Connect** across 193 branch vehicles with a view to enhance customer deliveries, increase driver safety and reduce fuel consumption by up to 10 per cent. Following a three-month pilot trial with the new system, the company has now rolled it out across a significant number of light commercial and licensed goods vehicles nationwide. Feedback has demonstrated fuel savings of between 8-10 per cent. The driver's behaviour is monitored through an in-cab light bar, which alerts them when specific harsh driving events are detected, including rapid acceleration, braking and cornering, idling of the engine and speeding. The light bar then notifies the driver to the degree of which they have exceeded a driving event in real-time, allowing for an instant rectification. **www.masternaut.com**

Intelligent Telematics launches Mobile App to Access Crash Footage

Intelligent Telematics has launched a mobile app that will enable operators to better monitor the wellbeing and status of vehicles and employees. The application will provide instant notification of any road collisions along with access to video footage of the event taken from the 3G forward-facing camera fitted in the vehicle. The mobile app integrates directly with Intelligent Telematics web-based interface, offering added control when away from the office or on the move. This will enable fleet customers using the **IT1000 3G** vehicle camera to achieve real-time visibility of vehicles at all times. Moving forward, the mobile app will incorporate a tracking option to allow fleet operators to have full visibility of their vehicles at any time through their smartphone or tablet. **www.intelligent-telematics.co.uk**

OPEN GIS NEWSROUND

Latest news from the Open Source, Open Data and Open GIS community

State of the Map Scotland 2015

The OpenStreetMap Foundation will convene the State of the Map Scotland 2015 conference in Edinburgh, 30 September to 4th October. The event kicks-off with an International Development Fair at Greyfriars Kirk and continues at the University of Edinburgh with International Development Lectures, a Developer Day and a Community Day. The closing day will feature two workshops, one to help more experienced mappers create 3D models, the other to guide new mappers, from making their first edit to creating paper maps. Event sponsors include Skyscanner, eBusiness Information and EeGeo. http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/State_of_the_Map_Scotland_2015

Open Data Roadmap for the UK

The Open Data Institute has published a 12-page Open Data Roadmap for the UK that sets out steps the government can take to continue to drive progress for improved policy-making for social, environmental and economic benefit. Three key steps are proposed and discussed: Investment in a data framework that will embed Open Data as part of a wider data strategy; the release of important datasets as Open Data, and a commitment to data training and skills development for government, business and citizens. The publication can be directly downloaded in pdf format from https://www.scribd.com/document_downloads/249768188?extension=pdf&from=embed&source=embed
http://theodi.org/

A new look for OldMapsOnline

A new version of OldMapsOnline.org has been launched, with a new interface, new partners, a new mobile application, and new search-engine optimisation. The world's largest portal for freely available, high-resolution images of historic maps was originally launched in 2012, but has steadily grown in size and functionality since then.
www.oldmapsonline.org

QGIS User Group meeting

A free-to-attend 2015 QGIS User Group – Cymru meeting will be held on the 5th October at the Mercure Holland Hotel in Cardiff. Although no final agenda had been published at the time of going to press, those interested should contact organisers Kevin Williams & Shaun Lewis via https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/qgis-user-group-2015-cymru-tickets-17274244731.

OGC seeks sponsors for FutureCities Pilot

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) in collaboration with buildingSMART International (bSI) invites sponsorship in a pilot project to help cities around the world benefit from modern standards for geospatial technologies. The Pilot, based in Europe, will demonstrate and enhance the ability of cities to use diverse, interoperating spatial technologies to deliver improved quality of life, civic initiatives and resilience. Organisations interested in sponsoring or hosting the pilot are invited to contact OGC before September 15 to provide input in the planning phase. Contact Bart de Lathouwer, the OGC Initiative Director for the pilot by emailing bdelathouwer@opengeospatial.org.
www.opengeospatial.org

CartoDB launches One-Click Mapping

CartoDB, the cloud-based Open Source mapping, analysis and visualisation engine has been endowed with new functionality that analyses uploaded datasets, makes suggestions of columns to visualise, and offers a selection of ready-made maps from the moment you click over to the dashboard.
https://cartodb.com/

Introducing Magic Earth

Magic Earth for iOS and Android has been launched as the first mapping and turn-by-turn navigation app to combine downloadable OpenStreetMap data with state-of-the-art HD Traffic from TomTom. Weather information can also be accessed for more than 100,000 global locations and 500,000 Wikipedia articles are directly selectable from the map. Available as a free download from the Apple App Store and Google Play, the app offers free worldwide maps and turn-by-turn navigation. Free speed camera data is available for 59 countries while HD Traffic is offered in 45 countries as an in-app purchase.
www.generalmagic.com

GeoMoose 2.8.0 released

The latest iteration of GeoMoose, the Open Source Web Client JavaScript Framework for displaying distributed cartographic data contains fixes for bugs found in the 2.7.1 release and implements many new enhancements
www.geomoose.org/releases/2.8.0.html