



Watford Derailment Strengthens Mobile Mapping Argument

Torrential rain is believed to have led to a landslide close to a tunnel opening, near **Watford Junction** causing the 06.19 service from Milton Keynes to leave the track. Now geospatial experts are warning that a more robust system of monitoring the stability of the UK rail network is required to help prevent further incidents. "Detecting change is crucial," argues **Dr Mark Brown** from **3D Laser Mapping**. "Over the past year, we've seen time and again that more needs to be done to monitor the structural health of railway assets and infrastructure. We know that weather is getting more extreme and an increased number of incidents like this could easily happen. However, consistent monitoring can identify at-risk areas, providing early warnings to schedule maintenance and repairs" www.3dlasermapping.com

GEO Business 2017 announce over 70% of exhibition space sold

Organisers of the **GEO Business show** are delighted to announce that over 70% of the exhibit space for 2017 has already been booked! **Show director, Caroline Hobden**, commented: "The overwhelming response to the third GEO Business has been phenomenal, both in feedback from exhibitors and visitors and also in the response to launching stand sales. Past exhibitors were given just two weeks to rebook their stand. The majority confirmed straight away and since then, new requests have been flooding in, leaving no doubt that **GEO Business 2017** will sell out well in advance." It is not surprising then, that next year's event is so highly anticipated, as the feedback from GEO Business 2016 was overwhelming. www.GeoBusinessShow.com

QuestUAV Launches Data Processing Service

QuestUAV have recently celebrated their 5-year anniversary and expanded their processing facilities to make them fully available to the wider drone community. Given the experience of spending capital building an in-house processing capability – using spare capacity from these fully qualified specialists to get the best outputs from data was the next logical step. **Platform agnostic processing** - Geo-referenced image data can come from any capture platform - fixed-wing, rotary, and beyond. The system is part of QuestUAV in-house capability, to ensure post-processing specialists fold external data processing jobs into the standard workflow. Your work will be processed alongside QuestUAV's own. www.questuav.com



Representative of British exhibitors gather for a photo call at the UK Pavilion after three days of non-stop activity at last month's INTERGEO event in Hamburg. See also the editorial this page. Photo: GeoConnexion



Peter Fitzgibbon,
Editor

Flying the flag!

The imponderables of Brexit may well have been a staple topic for conversation at last month's INTERGEO expo in Hamburg, but much more tangible was the number, diversity and enthusiasm of British businesses exhibiting at the world's premier showcase for surveying, geoinformation and land management (see also pp32-33 this issue).

For the fourth year running, the UK Pavilion hosted by GEOconnexion provided a cost-effective platform for SMEs promoting satellite imagery, point cloud rendering technology, airborne Lidar, spatial Big Data solutions, 3600 reality imaging systems, GIS software, INS componentry and more. Also evident was a trend that saw exhibition stands manned by other British companies being clustered around the Pavilion to create a village atmosphere. The national presence was reinforced by the event organisers declaring the UK its first country partner, and by Ordnance Survey's CEO Nigel Clifford who delivered the opening keynote at the adjoining INTERGEO conference.

The need to promote British exports and forge overseas partnerships will become increasingly important in combatting the uncertainties and anxieties that lay ahead. With a prime site already booked for the Pavilion at next year's INTERGEO in Berlin, it looks likely that our UK village will be bigger and better than ever!





Sword Dynamic Services Adopts Ctrack Vehicle Tracking

Sword Dynamic Services is using Ctrack's vehicle tracking system to drive down costs, improve customer service and operate more responsibly. Since adopting Ctrack Online across a fleet of 10 vehicles in January the company has increased productivity by almost 10 per cent. Sword Dynamic Services took the decision to install a vehicle tracking system following a strong period of growth. The company needed greater visibility and control over its mobile resources and workforce to ensure construction teams arrived onsite on-time and were meeting customer requirements. Using the Ctrack Online web portal and Ctrack Mobilz mobile tracking app, senior managers can now monitor the exact whereabouts of vehicles in real-time from both the office and on the move. www.ctrack.co.uk

Giving residents 24/7 access to council services in Salford

Salford City Council will be able to provide a quicker, easier, better online way to access council services whilst also saving money, due to a new initiative around data linking. By introducing an 'Intelligent Information Provision' concept, data in existing systems is utilised in order to gain insight into customer needs. CRM is used within Salford's contact centres and provides information on where customers live, the type of calls and how and when they make them. **John Gibbons, Authority Address Custodian** said; "The system is designed around residents' skills and needs with increased customer satisfaction a driving force to the changes. It means that information can be delivered much quicker to self-sufficient customers who are able to access council services at a time that suits them." www.geoplace.co.uk

ABPmer to assist Tobermory Harbour Association

ABPmer has been contracted to help Tobermory Harbour Association undertake a comprehensive risk assessment of its marine operations. Tobermory Harbour Association, established in 1983, owns, manages and maintains a range of facilities within Tobermory Harbour on behalf of the community. THA is currently applying to become a Harbour Authority and as part of the process a number of systems and procedures will be developed to comply with the UK Port Marine Safety Code. **Monty Smedley, Maritime Service Team Leader at ABPmer** said, "We are delighted to be appointed at this exciting time in Tobermory Harbour Association's history. ABPmer has extensive experience of working with port communities to undertake Marine Risk Assessments for the purposes of evaluating and controlling hazards. www.abpmer.co.uk



Call to truly understand accuracy requirements in UAV LiDAR surveys

The success of Routescene's invitation-only UK Roadshows earlier this year continued to demonstrate that survey knowledge has to be at the heart of every UAV LiDAR survey. Routescene calls for all end users and service companies to ensure they partner with experienced surveyors and certified UAV service providers to achieve the outcomes they require. **Gert Riemersma, CEO of Routescene**, states, "LiDAR and UAV are two emerging technologies still in their infancy. It is paramount that sound survey techniques and aviation principles are applied to any UAV LiDAR survey. We instill the need for a considered and rigorous approach to achieve the maximum output from any LiDAR instrument in as safe a manner as possible." www.routescene.com



UK Power Networks award NM Group four year framework

UK Power Networks has awarded a four year asset management framework to NM Group to assist in reducing the risk of power cuts being caused by trees and other vegetation affecting overhead power lines. NM Group will provide accurate structure modelling and clearance risk analytics for over 700,000 poles and towers and will use LiDAR technology to map over 45,000 km of overhead network in the South East and East of England. A 3D asset management platform provided, will allow UK Power Networks' engineers to identify vegetation risks within a digital environment. Creating a 3D network means tree trimming programmes can be efficiently targeted from the desktop, avoiding the potential hazards of site visits, which often require landowner involvement. www.nmggroup.com www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk

Ecometrica's software available across the University of Edinburgh

Academics and students at the University of Edinburgh School of Geosciences are set to become the first to gain unlimited access to millions of pounds worth of state-of-the-art Earth Observation, geospatial intelligence and satellite mapping applications, thanks to a groundbreaking memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between sustainability software and data company Ecometrica and the University of Edinburgh. The MoU formalises the ongoing collaboration between Ecometrica and the University of Edinburgh, which is expected to be worth around £4.5m to both parties over the next five years. Ecometrica will make its Mapping suite - a web-based, universal, disruptive geographic information system (GIS) - available on a limitless basis to the University, so that it can be used for research and teaching purposes. www.ecometrica.com