Peter Fitzgibbon, Editor

## Arup hosted British Information Modelling Event hailed a success

The second **British Information Modelling** (BIM) event proved a success with 100 delegates heading the Arup's central London HQ. British Information Modelling saw a lively discussion between the audience and a panel comprising of Cobus Bothma and Martin Coyne of KPF, Shaun Farrell of Turner & Townsend and Andrew Norrie of Graphisoft. The BIM-focused event was organised by **3D Repo**, the company behind multi-award winning technology that allows complex BIM datasets from multiple sources to be stored and easily accessed anywhere via the web. Speakers discussed developments that improve collaboration between architects, developers, engineers and contractors and the business benefits that can be gained. The event also witnessed new innovations from: 3D Repo, CartoConsult, Sablono and Basestone. **http://3drepo.org/**
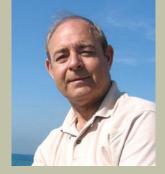
## 1Spatial Underpins Web-based Mapping & Asset Management Solution at Network Rail

**1Spatial** was chosen by **Network Rail** to provide its geospatial technology, which underpins an innovative **web-based mapping and asset management solution.** One of the UK's largest infrastructure owners, Network Rail is currently undertaking a five-year £330million transformation programme to improve its approaches to acquisition, storage and usage of asset information. As part of this programme of work, 1Spatial technology will visualise accurate, real time, asset information, which was previously stored in disparate legacy applications. This will give access to the data to over 36,000 Network Rail staff and over 3,500 external users, including the Emergency Services and British Transport Police. **Marcus Hanke, CEO of 1Spatial plc.** commented, "We are delighted to support Network Rail with 1Spatial's geospatial technology." **www.1spatial.com**

## Extra £320,000 in business rates from data matching

Collection of business rates is a hot topic within the local government finance and localism agenda. **Bath and North East Somerset Council** decided to review its processes around business rate collection by integrating information from planning, building control, licensing with the business rates department. By using the Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN), held by every individual piece of land and property in the council, it proved to be a straightforward process to combine the data held by the different departments. The UPRNs are displayed on the council's web-based mapping system for easy access, viewing and analysing. By using the UPRN in this way, the council has been able to increase revenue and is now looking forward to use the UPRN to enable more inter-departmental collaboration. **www.geoplace.co.uk**



# Innovating for a post-Brexit era

Despite ongoing uncertainties, those in the geospatial sector seem remarkably sanguine at the prospect of Brexit ... at least on the surface.

True, concerns have been voiced about Britain's future role in EU initiatives such as Galileo, Copernicus, INSPIRE and Horizon 2020; the effect on British nationals participating in the Erasmus student exchange programme, and the implication for EU nationals working in Britain's software sector.

For some, particularly in the public sector, the forthcoming Great Repeal Bill, with its intention to absorb parts of EU legislation into UK law, will be sufficient to assuage doubts. Others in the private sector will perhaps take comfort from a recent CBI survey of over 800 businesses* that suggests 70% of those responding plan to increase or maintain their innovation spending following the vote to leave the EU. Only 7% plan to reduce their investment.

"As we prepare to depart the EU, this shows that firms are rolling up their sleeves and looking to make the best of Brexit," says Carolyn Fairbairn, CBI Director-General.

So what sort of innovation is needed? "It's not just about freewheeling low-red tape buccaneering," said Rohan Silva speaking to a BCS event in Manchester towards the end of last year that addressed the topic 'Shining the light on post-Brexit Britain'.

The co-founder at Second Home, ex-Chair of Downing Street's Tech City Advisory Group, and Senior Policy Advisor to David Cameron (2010-13) cited examples from the US, Israel, Singapore and other innovation hubs where government was driving innovation. "We need an industrial strategy of that sort in the UK," said Silva. "We've already had Tech City - so we can do this, with targeted ambition. There has never been a time when the IT voice has been more important."

*http://www.cbi.org.uk/news/7-in-10-firms-plan-to-increase-or-maintain-innovation-spending-in-light-of-brexit/

## EarthSense Systems Sponsors National Air Quality Award

**EarthSense Systems** sponsored a national award for air quality. Part of the **National Air Quality Conference**, the awards are designed to recognise achievement and champion innovation throughout the air quality sector. EarthSense sponsored **the Local Authority and Public Sector Air Quality Initiative of the Year award,** whose shortlisted finalists included Barts Health NHS Trust and Global Action Plan, Transport for Greater Manchester, the Cross River Partnership and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency working with Glasgow City of Science and Young Scot. The **winner** of the award was the **Clean Air for Schools Programme, Transport for Greater Manchester.** The awards followed a one-day conference held at The QEII Centre in Westminster. **www.earthsense.co.uk**

## Brits admit safety fears over driverless and electric cars

A new survey carried out by **Northern Connectors**, found that both drivers and non-drivers have concerns about safety and practicality of driverless and electric cars. 65% of cited safety issues - such as the driver not being in full control of their driverless cars. 49% are worried that machines would struggle with ethical decisions that present themselves on the road and 50% agreed there would be uncertainty over who would be held responsible in the event of a crash. 64% said they would currently rather own a manual than a driverless car, with many citing the joy of driving and the control and freedom it affords them, while others claimed they do not trust technology and believe manual driving to be safer. **www.northern-connectors.co.uk.**

## Bluesky 3D Laser Maps AONB for Archaeological Studies



**Bluesky** has used aircraft mounted lasers to create 3D maps of potentially important archaeological sites in Devon. Funded by **Historic England** (formerly English Heritage), the LiDAR surveys were commissioned by Devon County Council's Historic Environment team with support from the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and The East Devon AONB. Using a range of visualisation techniques, the Bluesky LiDAR data will be modelled to provide accurate representations of earthwork remains, providing new information for known monuments and revealing previously unknown sites. The three locations captured by Bluesky were in the East Devon and Blackdown Hills AONB, all previously under-mapped and under-studied but thought to be of great archaeological potential. **www.bluesky-world.com**



## Dart Harbour Authority to manage port risk using MarNIS Port Assessment Toolkit

**ABPmer** has been asked to provide **Dart Harbour** and **Navigation Authority** with a **MarNIS 'Port Assessment Toolkit'** for managing marine risk. Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority is located on the River Dart in South Devon. The River Dart is navigable from Dartmouth to the weir at Totnes. A software solution such as MarNIS offers a pro-active approach to risk management, helping port authorities, Harbour Master or Port Safety Manager meet and exceed industry standards on risk management. **Nick Clarance, Deputy Harbour Master** said "As part of our commitment to continual improvement, I am very pleased to be implementing a customised MarNIS toolkit to bring our risk assessment, monitoring and reporting together into a single system." **www.abpmer.co.uk**

## OS sets out road map for Britain

Ordnance Survey (OS) has created the ultimate and authoritative road and transport management product, **OS MasterMap® Highways Network**, to support street works planning and notification, and to help



professionals make informed decisions with asset management and route planning. **Roads Minister, Andrew Jones MP** said: "This new and innovative digital map will help local authorities and utilities companies better plan how to route traffic and keep it moving during roadworks, minimising disruption and cutting unnecessary delays to motorists. Mark Le Page, Products Manger at OS, explains: "The aim of our collaboration with the public sector and utilities has been to simplify their lives with a complete picture." OS MasterMap Highways Network can help emergency services find the most effective routes when responding to 999 calls. **www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk**

## Minor Bumps and Scrapes Causes Major Headaches to Road Transport Operators

Minor road collisions are costing HGV fleets many thousands of pounds because of the difficulty of proving liability and the high risk of fake personal injury claims. Video footage recorded by **Intelligent Telematics' IT1000 3G** vehicle camera highlighted the difficulties faced by road transport operators recently when it captured the moment a car clips an HGV operated by retailer **Poundworld**. Such incidents are occurring across the UK, often resulting in fraudulent claims against HGVs and increased insurance costs to the companies involved. Insurance companies often settle in favour of the motorist, so Poundworld fitted Intelligent Telematics' IT1000 3G vehicle cameras across a fleet of 48 HGVs to reduce insurance costs and increase road safety. **www.intelligent-telematics.co.uk**