

FLOOD EXPO 2018. NEC BIRMINGHAM

Britain's warmest and driest summer on record did little to deter exhibitors and visitors from supporting this year's premier industry event

More than 2,500 visitors converged on the NEC in mid-September to see the latest offerings from 200 cutting-edge suppliers and to discover the latest in flood resilience measures at 100 expert-led seminars.

While the majority of exhibitors featured flood protection hardware such as barriers and pumps, measures that exploit geospatial techniques were evident in solutions such as HydroMaster, a joint collaboration between MeteoGroup Ltd, Kisters AG and DHI. The live web service combines spatio-temporal radar data, measuring point data, and results from forecasts and models to calculate precise forecasts and precipitation warnings for defined hotspots, zones of interest and catchments.

Geocurve, based in Colchester, promoted its UAV-based and Virtual Reality surveying techniques alongside its use of the Leica Pegasus backpack and Pegasus Two mobile mapper for the rapid capture of 3D point cloud data. Another exhibitor showcasing its use of drones for flood and coastal infrastructure projects was London-

based Future Aerial Innovations. The company has mapped and inspected over 40 km of coastal assets this year, much of the work requiring a rapid turnaround and the continuous delivery of large quantities of data to clients. This was described by GIS expert, Andrew Blogg, in a packed seminar session.

The seminar programme also included a presentation by Dave Jones on the Environment Agency's move towards making its Flood Map for Planning (see photo) a one-stop-shop service. Ambiental's Paul Drury spoke on innovations in flood modelling, forecasting and risk analytics modelling, while Warren Vick, founder and MD of Europa Technologies, outlined the use of location intelligence for precision flood risk assessment.

Also promoting location intelligence solutions for the land and property markets was Groundsure of Brighton which highlighted the BETA version of its map-based Groundsure.io free Open Data viewer. Already being accessed by many

environmental consultants, the viewer integrates various Open Data sources into one easy to use, interactive web experience. An upcoming feature release will be a 'get info' tool where users can access the next level of Open Data regarding features identified on the map. On the Environment Agency showstand, visitors were able to access its Flood Map for Planning. This is in BETA test on a new site to provide better information for planning applications within areas of flood risk.

Fugro, SCCS Survey Equipment, Survey Solutions Scotland and Yellowscan were all busy promoting surveying instruments and services; Storm Geomatics presented its data offering for the creation of accurate flood risk models, while the British Geological Survey promoted its long-established Infiltration SuDS map ... one that shows areas where rainfall can soak into the ground through Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), such as soakaways, infiltration basins and permeable pavements.



Pictured above left: Geocurve's Dominic Talbot was kept busy explaining how the Leica Pegasus Two mobile sensor platform transforms the speed at which 3D data can be accurately captured. Centre: Europa Technologies' Warren Vick at his seminar session on the use of location intelligence for assessing flood risk. Right: The Environment Agency's mapping service for land use planning and flood risk assessment receives close scrutiny. Photos: GeoConnexion

EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW. NEC BIRMINGHAM

The UK's largest event for blue light services reported a record growth in attendance

The free-to-visit event took place at the NEC over two days towards the end of September and attracted a total of 8,348 visitors and buyers, representing a record ten per cent increase on its previous highest attendance in 2017.

The show featured more than 450 exhibitors, and although geo technologies and services were rather thin on the ground, companies such as FARO Technologies made the most of the event to promote its Laser Scanner solutions for law enforcement, crime scene analysis, forensics and fire investigations; Slever Locator Services showcased its indoor location tracking sensor and software application, while GETAC and Handheld were both on hand to demonstrate their hand-portable computing solutions for mission critical applications. West Midlands Ambulance Service demonstrated the latest version (4.0) of its map-based Dynamic Cover Tool, developed in partnership with ORH. The software application went live in May 2017 to provide a real-time visualisation of assets, including vehicles, and improve day-to-day decision-making. Other software in the process of being updated is ResilienceDirect Maps (RD Maps) from the Cabinet Office. This multi-



agency mapping application, developed in partnership with Airbox Systems as a secure online mapping environment, is undergoing a two-year programme to completely revamp the user interface and make it far more intuitive for Category 1 and 2 responders, government departments and infrastructure owners.

Pictured (top left clockwise): West Midlands Police were on hand to welcome visitors. Luana Avagliano, Head of ResilienceDirect at the Cabinet Office (left) explains how its multi-agency RD Maps application is set for a major revamp. 2,500 show visitors attended a programme of 90 CPD seminars running in four theatres. West Midlands Ambulance Service demonstrated the latest version (4.0) of its map-based Dynamic Cover Tool. Photos: GeoConnexion

Westcott Space Cluster launch

A ground-breaking ceremony marked the latest milestone in Britain's quest to achieve a 10% share of the global space market by 2030 - and deliver a £40 billion boost to the UK economy

Located on the 650-acre Westcott Venture Park near Aylesbury, the Space Cluster played host to some 250 guests in early October for the launch of a new phase in Britain's thriving space sector.

The Cluster is already home to the 5G Step-Out Centre and the Business Incubation Centre, both run by the Satellite Applications Catapult, as well as a growing nucleus of companies developing new and innovative technologies in rocket propulsion, 5G communications and autonomous systems. Having attracted over £30 million of investment to date, the Cluster is set to provide a springboard for many others engaged in these and other space-related activities over the next two years.

The latest phase of the development was inaugurated in a ground-breaking ceremony that will see the construction of a 1200 sq. m. Innovation Centre with 20 hi-tech offices of varying size. Scheduled for opening next year (2019), it will provide a hub and networking focal point for the Space Cluster.



Breaking new ground for the new Innovation Centre (pictured from left to right): Stuart Martin, CEO, Satellite Applications Catapult; Nigel Mackenzie, Project Manager, Westcott; Richard Harrington, Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, and Torben Henriksen, Head of the Mechanical Department, European Space Agency. Photo: GeoConnexion

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