

Getting connected for 5G



“The key to rapid nationwide fibre deployment happens before a fibre cable is even laid – and this early insight will be critical to the cost-effective roll-out of Fibre to the home (FTTH) and 5G mobile.” That was the message from Steve Birdsall, CEO of surveying and mobile mapping specialist Gaist, speaking on the opening day of the Connected Britain conference (Business Design Centre, London, 18-19 June).

He stressed the need for detailed mapping of the type and condition of UK highway assets in advance of any installation work. This, he said, would

help network providers create accurate business cases and budgets and, thereby, make informed decisions that reduced the risk of unexpected delays and disruption, as well as cost and time overruns.

That message has certainly not been lost on Ordnance Survey, which has spent the last year in partnership with Intel’s MobilEye subsidiary trialling AI-driven data capture techniques to deliver just this type of detailed street mapping (see page 52 this issue).

With a recent report estimating that 5G will enable US\$12.3 trillion of

global economic output in 2035, the UK government has put its weight behind ensuring the nation is at the forefront of 5G developments. Yet implementing a 5G infrastructure has already hit a snag, with wrangles over how much rent councils, landowners and others can charge mobile operators to mount 5G transmitters and sensors on lampposts and other tall structures. According to a recent report in *The Guardian*, a new tribunal system designed to resolve these disputes, is already backlogged with dozens of cases and threatens to delay the 5G roll-out of 5G by at least two years.

NEWS EXTRA

Ordnance Survey and partners to create pilot map of the North East

A digital map of underground pipes and cables is to be created, to help save lives and reduce the disruption caused when they are struck by mistake. To help prevent such accidents, the government’s Geospatial Commission has announced its ambition to bring together the existing data on underground pipes and cables to create an Underground Assets Register. This has begun with pilot projects in London and the North East, to test the feasibility of the project. Minister for Implementation, Oliver Dowden said: “Our investment in this cutting-edge underground map is just one way that the government is working smarter, so that we really make a difference to people’s everyday lives.” There is currently no comprehensive underground map of the UK’s service network. www.os.uk



SSTL announces new Earth Observation data contract with Airbus

Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) has signed a contract with Airbus to provide high resolution optical data from the SSTL S1-4, an Earth observation satellite that was launched in September 2018. Sarah Parker, Managing Director of SSTL said: “We are delighted with the performance of the SSTL S1-4 in orbit, demonstrated by the outstanding quality of the sub 1 metre resolution images.” SSTL will retain ownership of in orbit satellite operation, and will lease imaging payload capacity to Airbus for the lifetime of the satellite, designed to be in excess of 7 years. The new contract will contribute high resolution panchromatic and multispectral optical data into the Airbus portfolio, which already includes image data from seven satellites manufactured by SSTL, the DMC Constellation and the TripleSat Constellation. www.sstl.co.uk

Wirral Council migrates to PostGIS

The GIS Officers at Wirral Council use Cadcorp SIS and web mapping applications to deliver geospatial information internally and to the public. PostgreSQL with the PostGIS extension is being used as the spatial database. The Council is migrating its GIS data and sought a 1-day training course to familiarise themselves with operating the database. Cadcorp delivered its ‘Using PostGIS with Cadcorp SIS’ training course that guides system administrators through the process of managing spatial data, installing and configuring the PostGIS database, and loading data into the desktop GIS and web mapping applications. The Council’s GIS and IT system administrators attended the course. Vikki Chapman, GI and Mapping Officer at Wirral Council commented: “The course really helped us to quickly get to grips with PostgreSQL with the PostGIS extension.” www.cadcorp.com



Europa Technologies announces v2019.1 of premier global data products

Europa Technologies has released the latest major version (v2019.1) of its market-leading suite of global map data products. As the most widely deployed digital map of the world, these products continue to help businesses, governments and NGOs manage their international activities. They also underpin important environmental research on many issues affecting our planet. The global map data products are recognised and utilised by earth scientists and a variety of businesses and organisations, including Fortune Global 500 companies, governments and missions of the United Nations. The new product release will continue to be available as a service through the award-winning viaEuropa platform. viaEuropa provides access to hosted, high quality cartography as OGC-compliant web services which can be easily consumed by desktop, mobile and web applications www.europa.uk.com

TCarta teams up with King's College London and wins ESA Funding

TCarta has teamed with King's College London to win funding from the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop an air quality modeling service that leverages commercial satellite imagery. The service will provide organisations with accurate snapshots of existing air quality conditions along with modeling outputs to forecast how modifications in pollutant sources can change

concentrations in the air over time. The TCarta and King's team will match the demonstration project that will generate air quality data for a number of major cities worldwide and deliver products through online services, API's and data feeds. TCarta and King's successfully proved the technical and commercial viability of the service in a pilot study also funded by ESA in 2018. www.tcarta.com



IQGeo launches 'reality-centric' geospatial platform to replace cartography-centric legacy GIS

IQGeo is launching its new geospatial platform that offers network infrastructure providers an alternative approach to legacy GIS, transforming operations, improving data quality, reducing costs and streamlining processes. IQGeo's next generation geospatial platform takes a **reality-centric** approach that has been specifically designed for infrastructure companies, providing a near real time network view and closing the data gap between the field and the office. Using a mobile first architecture that supports any mobile device, IQGeo's solution uses open applications that model the reality of a distributed, smart network with much simpler graphical representations. The IQGeo solution streamlines the network asset maintenance process and removes inherent legacy GIS update bottlenecks. Authorized staff, not just GIS experts, can now update network assets on any device, from anywhere. www.iqgeo.com

Bluesky and Getmapping Embrace XMAP for UK Government

Bluesky and Getmapping signed an agreement with on-line mapping specialist GeoXphere to encourage the wider use of Aerial Photography for Great Britain (APGB) within the public sector. Bluesky and Getmapping are offering the latest and most detailed aerial photography available, free at the point of use, to more than 4,500 government organisations. GeoXphere developed XMAP, a cloud-based, entry-level GIS, to provide widespread desktop access to a range of mapping resources such as APGB data. In use across local government, XMAP allows users of all technical abilities to access, analyse and share data for a variety of applications. A cloud-based, entry-level solution, XMAP

provides desktop access to resources, via the cloud, reducing the need to download and store large volumes of data. www.getmapping.com www.bluesky-world.com



Jesse Norman MP conveyed need for transport transformation at GeoPlace conference

Jesse Norman MP, Minister of State for the Department for Transport, opened this year's GeoPlace conference. His keynote speech set out how data and digital technology can help transform our transport system to benefit the travelling public and deliver environmental and economic goals. Mr. Norman noted that the UK is seeing a much-needed transformation in the way we travel, plan, use, pay for and operate transport. New technologies are coming together and providing opportunities for our local communities to grow and flourish. To sustain this development of transport, we must

understand what society needs, where, and why, and the demand for high-quality street and addressing data is delivered by GeoPlace, through its network and operations. www.qroutes.co.uk



Gaist's mapping solution could boost efficiency for utilities market

Utilities companies looking to cut the cost and time of their construction works have a new solution available to them as Gaist revealed its unique infrastructure digital twin that has the potential to increase efficiency output by 10 per cent at 0.01 per cent of the project cost. Showcasing its innovative mapping solutions to the utilities market, Gaist covers over 341,500 kilometres of the UK's roads and pathways with more than a billion high-definition images to create a complete and precise view of the highway network. This gives planners and engineers the opportunity to explore any part of the network and its wider environment from their desktop, enabling them to make cost-effective and informed decisions when planning and carrying-out projects on roads. www.gaist.co.uk

Introducing

KOREC Professional Services



Recent advances in mobile mapping technology are enabling surveyors to look at new ways of tackling the type of demanding projects they regularly undertake from highways engineering surveys to road asset mapping.

Additionally, widespread investment in city planning and 'smart city' projects is likely to accelerate the adoption of mobile mapping.

KOREC Professional Services means every company can offer their clients mobile mapping surveys without a large capital outlay and staff training.



The vehicle-mounted MX9 - capable of collecting two million data points every second

FIVE Reasons to use KOREC Professional Services

- 1** Expand your business by offering clients mobile mapping surveys, and all their benefits, without the need for a hefty capital outlay or training costs.
- 2** Confidence in the quality of the end deliverable. The KPS team is highly experienced in surveys, processing and all deliverables are subject to extensive QA.
- 3** Benefit from consultancy, support and advice throughout. We're there from pre-survey through to your final chosen deliverable.
- 4** Choice - wide ranging mobile mapping portfolio and choice of levels of service, Capture, Processing, Hosting means that we quote for the best fit for your job.
- 5** Experience. This is our business, this is what we do and we've worked with clients that include global companies and the OS down to small survey practices looking to expand.

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“ By using the MX9, we were able to complete this survey twenty times faster than if we'd used traditional methods ”

Anthony Lawton, Academy Geomatics