



DANGER! DANGER! SURVEYORS AT WORK

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There are no statistics about how many surveyors are killed each year – no one records that data, or if they do, it's not shared with other people, other organisations and other countries. This is despite the fact the profession has members are more at risk than others, simply by virtue of where they work. From building sites to minefields, from flooding rivers to dry deserts, from mountain tops to the deepest caves, on foot, on boats, in cars, in planes – whether it's on land, at sea or in the air, surveyors are there, trying to measure.

Naturally, some areas are more dangerous than others, but when the need arises, surveyors are still there to take the risks needed to record data. Fortunately, new technologies are helping to reduce those risks – while also making previously impossibly dangerous tasks possible.



This issue, we look at several such innovations. On page 28, we look at how higher-resolution cameras are helping surveyors to record the same data as before, but further away from danger. Meanwhile, on page 30, Mike Panzeri explains how earth observation data is helping to secure medical supply chains in Australia, where flooding and bush fires are on the rise. And on page ESRI, Ryan Lanclos looks at how a geographic approach can make communities more resilient.

I hope you enjoy the issue and find it useful in your (hopefully now-safer) work.



MEASURING THE BENEFITS

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HOW DO YOU CALCULATE THE BENEFITS WHEN BUILDING A BUSINESS CASE FOR GEOSPATIAL DATA?

At a time when public sector spending is under forensic scrutiny, building a watertight business case for geospatial data is not as easy as we might think. Its value is often only realised when combined with other datasets; there is no one-size-fits-all valuation method, and its long-term value can be difficult to predict.

With these considerations in mind, the Geospatial Commission has worked with Frontier Economics and a range of stakeholders to publish a 57-page guidance document¹ that will help public sector organisations more effectively drive the investment case for location data.

Its practical guidance includes a seven-step framework that will help decision-makers articulate the rationale for investment and

identify potential benefits. Deep-dive case studies relating to the National Underground Asset Register, the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement, Transport for London Open Data and HM Land Registry Data Valuation are also included.

In offering this new guidance, Thalia Baldwin, Commissioner of the Geospatial Commission, said: "Linking data to location improves analysis, decisions and outcomes. It is vital that the public sector invests to maintain our strategic national geospatial assets. Our guidance will support organisations to make a coherent and persuasive case for improved geospatial data."

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measuring-the-economic-social-and-environmental-value-of-public-sector-location-data>

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