



INTERGEO 2020 UPDATE

INTERGEO GOES DIGITAL!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 26 YEARS, AND WITH VERY LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE, INTERGEO 2020 WENT ALL-DIGITAL – AND STILL MANAGED TO DELIVER AN IMPRESSIVE PACKAGE

Berlin's main conference venue lay silent; the queues were strangely absent; the flags and banners remained in storage; no exhibition booths heaved with eager visitors. And with no bratwurst or foaming tankards on offer, Europe's premier geospatial expo was, this year, a very different affair for obvious reasons.

Even so, it managed to deliver an impressive virtual programme over three days in mid-October, with 228 exhibitors, nearly 3,000 products presented, more than 400 conference speakers, plus video links to a host of supporting events. And with 'live' music, courtesy of Ireland's Séan Treacy Band on the second evening, it seemed almost like business as usual.

Real challenge

The task of creating a secure and functional meeting place in the shortest possible time was a real organisational and technical challenge. Yet the final tally of some 330,000 digital interactions by more than 12,000 participants in 153 countries exceeded expectations says Christoph Hinte of expo organisers Hinte Messe (pictured right). "We succeeded in establishing a stable digital platform that generated a vast volume of interaction. Together with all partners we ensured that the geo-community with its great thematic relevance can also meet



in pandemic times". That sentiment was echoed by Hansjörg Kutterer (pictured right), president of conference hosts, the DVW (German Society for Geodesy, Geoinformation and Land Management): "We can look back on a promising digital premiere of INTERGEO. Pleasing visitor numbers and a significantly stronger international participation in INTERGEO. digital are impressive proof of this. We are delighted with the well-functioning interplay between speakers, listeners, administration, and technology. Our goals in terms of content were more than achieved."

The main conference sessions, as well as additional presentations delivered via three dedicated technology platforms (Geoinnovations, Smart City Solutions and Interaerial Solutions) attracted an average of 370 visits per event, and discussion panels, talks and presentations were in high demand throughout. The platform-independent alfaview video conferencing solution was adopted across the conference and trade fair, providing high quality and stability for up to 500 participants simultaneously in each virtual room.



Optimistic outcome

Exhibitors seemed content that the event passed off successfully: "This new format is a challenge for all of us – and we took it!" says Michael Degen, Partner Business Consultant DACH at Autodesk. He added "We would now call our visitors 'digital consumers' as the acceptance and usage of digital content was higher than expected vs. the direct contact via digital tools. We are looking forward to a detailed follow-up and the possible outcome, being quite optimistic."

Thomas Haring, President Hexagon Geosystems, concurred: "It is great to see how the whole team has evolved in this new world. The feedback from my team and the customers is very positive. They told me that they have had very good conversations and our presentations were frequently visited."

Ronald Bisio, responsible for Global Surveying and Geospatial Business at Trimble, was pleased with the number of international contacts, old and new. "My team told me, that we had contacts even from New Mexico. They most probably wouldn't have had the chance to visit us otherwise. And they were very happy to participate."

Next year's INTERGEO is scheduled to be held in Hannover from 21-23 September, more details of which will soon be available at <https://www.intergeo.de/>





As always, exhibitors took the opportunity to showcase new and improved products and services. **Riegl** announced a quartet of new additions to its range of airborne laser scanners, including the VQ-1560II-S, claimed to be probably the most versatile ALS currently available. This new version of the successful dual channel waveform-processing ALS, is said to lend itself to the acquisition of extremely dense, highly accurate point clouds over large areas, and is suited to a wide range of applications - from precise corridor mapping to detailed city mapping.

GeoSLAM showcased the latest addition to its ZEB family of hand-held laser scanners. The entry-level ZEB Go! model, employing Simultaneous Localization And Mapping (SLAM) techniques, offers one button operation to get users up-and-running and capturing data in minutes. Weighing just 850g and with a 30m range and 360° x 270° FOV, the ZEB Go! scans at 43,000 points/sec, with automatic registration of multiple scans and geo-referencing. Relative accuracy is 1 - 3cm. Pointclouds can be quickly processed using the GeoSLAM Hub intelligent point cloud processing platform, or onboard in real-time using the ZEB Go RT upgrade. GeoSLAM data is compatible with a variety of software that recognises universal file formats such as LAZ, LAS, PLY, TXT, and e57.



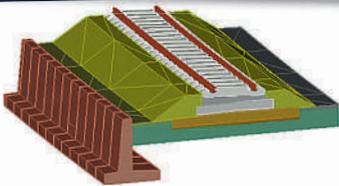
Drone and aerial imaging technology leader **DJI** unveiled its first LiDAR solution for precise aerial inspection and data collection missions. The Zenmuse L1 payload, configured for the company's flagship Matrice 300 RTK commercial drone platform, integrates a powerful yet ultra-lightweight Livox LiDAR module with a 70° FOV, a high-accuracy IMU. The payload also integrates a 20-megapixel camera with a 1-inch CMOS sensor and a mechanical shutter on a three-axis stabilised gimbal. This combination can generate true-colour point cloud models in real-time, or acquire up to 2 km² of point cloud data in a single flight.



Also unveiling a UAV solution based on the Livox Horizon sensor was **YellowScan**, which unveiled its updated Mapper product. Pitched at a price point affordable to a larger base of professional users, this latest offering is a purely aerial LiDAR solution that is ideally flown at 70m above ground level and intended for general topography projects. The updated Mapper seamlessly integrates with existing YellowScan's software solutions - LiveStation and CloudStation - making it easy to remotely check data while the system is flying, and comprehensively post-process, visualise and export survey data.



Wireless condition monitoring specialist **Senceive** launched FlexiMeasure, a lightweight carbon fibre wireless inclinometer system that can be deployed by one person for structural and geotechnical monitoring applications. Operating in any orientation, it boasts ultra-low power consumption and indefinite operation, thanks to a small solar panel, and has flexible, quick-connect segments that can be adjusted on-site to suit requirements. Waterproof to 200 m depth; with an integrated temperature sensor, and with versatile mounting options, FlexiMeasure has a resolution of 0.0001° (0.0018 mm/m) and repeatability of ±0.0005° (±0.009 mm/m).



Making its debut was Version 6.2 of the ProVI infrastructure planning and design software from **ProVI GmbH**. This expands its BIM functionality, especially in rail applications for platform planning and 3D switches. For the former, new features include additions to the cross-profile editor and Revit export while, for the latter, switches can be included in the model collection as attribute3D components and, thus, output via the ifc interface. In terms of wider BIM functionality, all attributes of one type of construction can now be transferred to another via data transfer in the cross-section editor. In addition, a new SHAPE interface allows you to include SHAPE files from GIS contexts such as LBP surfaces and Esri data, as well as to create corresponding SHAPE files from ProVI data.



Following the earlier launch of its Android app, **SXblue** announced the SXblue ToolBox, the iOS version intended for iOS-compatible SXblue GNSS devices. With this new application, the user can analyse the position data provided by the SXblue receiver, as well as location metadata. More important for SXblue clients, the application can record, save and transfer raw data from the GNSS receiver for post-processing purposes. The application also acts as a NTRIP client, capable of connecting to a NTRIP server for RTK corrections, thereby allowing the receiver to issue very accurate location information.



Hi-Target celebrated its 20th anniversary by introducing the iRTK5 GNSS receiver. As well as integrating a high-performance IMU to make tilt survey work easier and more practical, the use of Hi-Fill technology provides continuous RTK coverage during correction outages from an RTK base station or VRS network. The correction source provided by the company's Hi-RTP network has also been extended so that users can work without a base station in rural or remote areas of the world. Also provided with this new receiver is a multi-protocol radio and top-mounted, full omni-directional communications antenna that extends the transmitting and receiving distance by more than 20%.