



Call for the Establishment of a European Persistent Geospatial Test-Bed for Research and Teaching.

Call Deadline: 25th June 2007

At the 8th May 2007 joint AGILE-EuroSDR-OGC Workshop on Persistent Geospatial Test-beds it was proposed that a persistent geospatial test-bed be established within the European research community. (For the Workshop programme see <http://468041.g.portal.aau.dk/1931343>).

The Workshop proposed that work on the test-bed be initiated based on existing capability. Consultation on the organisation and content of subsequent test-bed development should also be undertaken with the European communities of the above three organisations.

This document is an **invitation to submit a proposal** for a Phase 1 test-bed implementation and also forms part of the consultation process.

Test-bed Objectives:

The future definition, scope and objectives of the test-bed will be driven by the responses to this and future consultation but developments reported at the workshop and proposed for the Phase 1 test-bed include:

- To act as a research test-bed for collaborative European research in geospatial interoperability,
- To aid the assessment of the current standards for geospatial interoperability in terms of research compatibility, completeness, consistency and ease of use and extensibility
- To provide an environment for teaching standards and techniques for geospatial interoperability
- To provide a resource to AGILE/EuroSDR/OGC for the coordination of research requirements as well as definition, testing, validation and development of open standards

The test-bed will be distributed and comprise data, web services, hardware, software, tools and human resources. It will be based upon both ISO/OGC geospatial standards and appropriate IT standards (e.g. from W3C and OASIS).

The consultation aims to address issues such as:

- What purposes should a test-bed serve?
- What does it need to comprise of?
- How should it be governed and administered?
- How will it be constructed?
- How will it be funded?
- How will it be sustained so that it is available in the long term?
- What will be the relationship of the test-bed to other data/service infrastructures, (national SDIs, INSPIRE, UNSDI, GEOSS, etc)?

The emphasis of this Call is on a test-bed for research and education. Commercial and governmental organisations are, however, encouraged to participate in the consultation and comment on whether they would support or wish to be involved in this or subsequent phases of test-bed development.

No payment will be made to contributors for provision of hardware, software, data or services nor will any expenses be reimbursed for this phase of development.

This initial phase of the test-bed will only provide access to the participants. It is planned that subsequent phases of development will be open.

The consultation

Please answer the following questions:

1. For what purposes do you see you and your organisation using the proposed test-bed e.g. research, development, demonstrators, teaching?
2. Please indicate what features of the test-bed should be the priority in the first phase.
3. Describe how you see your organisation participating in the test-bed. (Max 2 pages).

You should provide a description of your organisation and areas of relevant expertise and indicate what form and level of resources you

and your or institution would commit to. Examples of commitment include provision of hardware, software, web services, data sets, expertise, development effort. In the case of services indicate the level of guarantee of continued availability both in terms of persistence and up-time. At least for the first few stages, data supplied must be free for use and preferably free of all licence restrictions.

4. Please nominate and provide the contact details for the primary contact regarding your organisation's involvement in the test-bed. This person must have authority to represent your organisation in this matter.

Name:	
Title/Position:	
Organisation:	
Contact Address:	
Tel:	
E-mail:	
Web site:	

Next steps

A panel made up of representatives from AGILE, EuroSDR and OGC will review and evaluate the responses to this call and consultation. Selected organisations will be invited to participate in the Phase 1 development. Further calls will be made for participation in subsequent stages of test-bed development.

Responses to the call will be evaluated using the following unranked criteria.

- The type and level of contribution proposed.
- Your capacity to become involved within the next 3 months.
- The level of detail and feasibility of your organisation's proposed contribution.
- The level of knowledge, experience and expertise your organisation has with regards to GI interoperability.
- Evidence of your organisation's understanding of the technical and/or management issues involved in establishing and operating a test-bed.
- The level of support of your host institution.
- In the cases where you plan to offer one or more services, how you plan to sustain the availability of the services.

Questions should be emailed to test-bed-questions@nottingham.ac.uk.

Please send your response to this consultation and proposals for test-bed participation to test-bed-responses@nottingham.ac.uk .

The closing date for submissions is 25th June 2007.