

ICSM NEWS - December 2003

ICSM held its second meeting for the year 2003 in Wellington, New Zealand, on 27-28 November 2003.

ICSM Topographic Map Index Now Live!

Need to know what topographic maps exist over Australia, at what scale and who produces them? If so, you can now find out by using the ICSM topographic map index available from the ICSM web site. To view just go to www.icsm.gov.au and select the new topographic map index icon. ICSM in collaboration with Geoscience Australia have built this index – a ‘one stop shop’ for what’s been mapped topographically. If you visit this site, let us know what you think, or ways we could improve it by sending your feedback to icsm@ga.gov.au.

New Rural and Urban Addressing Standard – AS/NZ 4819-2003

Do you know whether your home or business address is correct? In case of an emergency or a fire, would the fire brigade, ambulance or police be able to find your property with ease? If you are not sure, next time you visit your local government council or shire, those responsible in administering addresses in your region, ask them whether they have heard about the new Australian and New Zealand Rural and Urban Addressing Standard AS/NZ 4819-2003.

The aim of the new addressing standard is to encourage correct addressing practices and to provide a comprehensive guideline to administering addresses in both rural and urban environments.

If your local government council or shire have not heard of the new standard, ask them whether they have received their copy of a multi-media CD-ROM produced by the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) that explains the principles of the new standard in simple terms, as well as includes a PDF version of the new standard.

If not, the multi-media CD-ROM is freely available from your state government land information agency as well as ICSM. If your local council has not got their copy or if you would like a public version of this multi-media CD-ROM (also free) call 02 6249 9677 or e-mail icsm@ga.gov.au.

The multi-media CD-ROM is both entertaining and canvasses the broad principles of the new standard explaining:

- how addresses are used and the different types or addresses that exist in our society today, such as residential, commercial, complex etc.
- the problem with the way addresses are allocated now and how they could be improved;

- how addresses could be made unique;
- how the new standard applies to rural areas versus urban areas;
- what is meant by a complex and alias address;
- geo-coding, i.e., adding location based information to your address;
- the benefits of the new standard;
- who is supporting the implementation of this new standard; and
- what you could do to help.

It also has a couple of exercises that demonstrate how the new standard is applied in the real world.

A New ICSM Working Group – to look at E-lodgement and LandXML

ICSM has established a new working group to progress the concept of electronic lodgement (e-lodgement) of survey plans and transfer of digital survey data using LandXML.

This new group will pick up and progress the issues discussed at the Brisbane workshop held in November 2003 hosted by Queensland’s Department of Natural Resources and Mines. The workshop in Brisbane was used to gauge the support for and discuss the appropriateness of LandXML as the future standard for transferring digital surveying data between governments, the producer to government and vice versa, and/or as the mechanism for e-lodgement of survey plans.

The terms of reference for this group are currently being developed by Garry West, our Northern Territory representative who will also be leading the group as Sponsor. If you have an interest in this topic or have some experience or views on e-lodgement or LandXML we would like to hear from you. Please contact Garry West by phone on: 08 8999 6062 or email Garry.West@nt.gov.au.

The “M” in ICSM is Back on the Agenda!

Those who have visited the new ICSM topographic map index (at www.icsm.gov.au) will appreciate:

- the variety in scale and coverage of topographic map products that currently exist over Australia;
- the number of custodians and producers of these maps; and
- the variability in the reliability dates of these maps, which can range from as recent as 2003 to as old as 1972.

Knowing who is doing what, where, when and to what scale will better assist mapping agencies around Australia to:

- identify gaps where there is a need for more up-to-date topographic data and maps;
- assist with better planning practices and better coordinate future mapping programs; and
- where appropriate share information and data when producing updates to data or new maps.

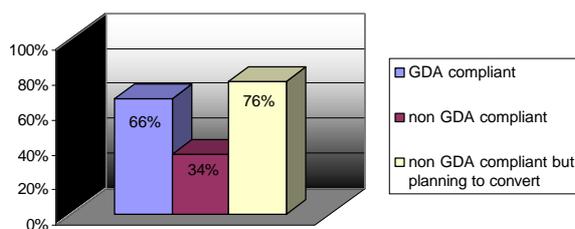
These are some of the objectives of the recently established ICSM Permanent Committee on Topographic Information.

An Update on the Implementation of GDA

The GDA Implementation Working Group surveyed 161 private companies around Australia to determine GDA adoption across the private sector. Results were very promising and the findings comprised the following:

- most organisations interviewed planned to convert to GDA prior to end of 2004, some in 2005;
- many organisations will move to GDA on an incremental basis, e.g., as new projects are started or upon client request;
- organisations have all the information and transformation tools they need;
- conversion to GDA usually occurs after GDA adoption is made by lead government agencies; and
- many organisation are used to working in a multi-datum environment.

GDA Compliancy in Private Sector



A benchmark exercise will be undertaken in the future (early 2005) to determine the movement of the percentages above as well as provide a further update on GDA compliancy in the public sector.

In the meantime, ICSM have decided to wind up the GDA Implementation Working Group as of April 2004, given that this group has successfully addressed all its terms of reference. Having done this, ICSM will still remain the point of contact for GDA issues and will continue to provide information on GDA matters via its website.

Reserving Significant Geographic Names for Community Use!

Both CGNA (Committee of Geographic Names Australasia) and Geoscience Australia have been working hard to compile the next version of the National Gazetteer which will include the reserve list of geographic names restricted to second level domain (2LD) registration. The list identified in the National Gazetteer will be the authoritative list used by auDA to reserve the use of significant geographic names for community use only.

auDA (Domain Administration Ltd) the prime body responsible in regulating and setting policy on the registration of Australian .com and .net domain names on the Internet, are seeking public feedback about the implementation of the 2LD's for community use of Australian geographic names. They have published two papers with the help of their National Reference Group (NRG) for public comment. The first paper titled 'Domain Name Policy Rules and Guidelines' the other 'Registry/Registrar Options' are accessible from the following web page:

www.auda.org.au/policy/geographic-2LDs-2003/

Given that use of these domain names will be restricted to community website portals that reflect community interests, auDA encourages comments from local businesses, tourism operators, special interest groups and managers of cultural events.

All submissions to be forwarded to jo.lim@auda.org.au by 10 January 2003.

Next ICSM Meeting

ICSM's next meeting is scheduled for late May 2004 in Melbourne, Victoria. The next *ICSM News* will therefore be published in June 2004.

ICSM would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and safe and prosperous New Year!