



Successful international conference on Positional Accuracy Improvement

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On 5-7th May an international conference *Impacts of Improving the Positional Accuracy of GI Databases* was held in Malahide, near Dublin, Ireland. The event was sponsored by EuroSDR, Dublin Institute of Technology [DIT], FIG and was co-organised by Ordnance Survey [GB]. DIT also kindly provided financial support for the event.

The conference emphasised the significance of developing PAI scenarios in a number of countries.

About fifty delegates from Austria, Denmark, France, Ireland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Switzerland, discussed the implications for national mapping and cadastral agencies (NMCAs), software and service providers, universities and data users.

Keynote speaker Randy Fusaro from the US Bureau of Census presented the current progress of the Bureau's Tigerline Modernization programme that aims at improving the accuracy of the Tiger database to 3.8 metres root mean square error (RMSE). Delegates were surprised to find out that for the trial area in Queens, NY, a mean shift of 87 metres was identified. The programme has an investment volume of \$200 million and about 10% of the 3 223 counties have been improved to date.



EuroSDR commission 4 president Colin Bray defining PAI

The event heard from several mapping and cadastral agencies. Ordnance Survey staff from Great Britain presented the lessons learnt from their own PAI programme which is now well advanced and involves significant customer involvement, while other NMCAs from Ireland, France, Switzerland, Denmark, Germany and elsewhere described different aspects of PAI.



Delegates discussing the way forward

Generally it was recommended to other NMCAs currently planning PAI to ensure the involvement of users and technology partners from the very first stages to the end.



Closing panel discussing the results of the conference

New methods of solving PAI for data users were discussed at the event and it is anticipated that a follow-up event focusing on solutions will be staged by EuroSDR in 2005.

The event was part of the EuroSDR programme of workshops with support from DIT and FIG Commission 3.2. Other assistance from Ordnance Survey, Great Britain and Ordnance Survey Ireland was greatly appreciated.

FIG members: If you would like to learn more about the workshop or forthcoming events please contact Keith Murray or Martin Scheu – see FIG website Commission 3 for full details.