

Geospatial Surveyors – What's in a Name?

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SUMMARY

In the 1980s a number of countries began using the term Geomatics in relation to surveying. While first adopted in bilingual Canada it spread to a number of other English speaking countries. The reasons given at the time for its need were a) it embraced a field wider than surveying b) land surveying had a poor public image, and c) a more modern term was needed to attract students to university surveying programmes. While widely used in academia, the surveying profession has been more reluctant to adopt it. Controversy and confusion has grown up around its meaning. It is time to re-evaluate whether it has met the original needs and if its use if it is still valid or whether a better term is available.