

**Report to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week in Cairo, April 2005**

**Bids to host FIG Congress 2010**

**Summary of the evaluation**

**Sydney, Australia**

**Region:** Asia and the Pacific. The previous conferences 2006 Europe (Germany), 2002 North America (USA); 1998 Europe (United Kingdom); 1994 Asia and the Pacific (Australia); 1990 Europe (Finland); 1986 North America (Canada).

**Country:** Australia has hosted the Congress in 1994 in Melbourne. The attendance figures were: 2,288 participants from 74 countries. 974 delegates out of 1,388 were from outside Australia. 423 accompanying persons; 350 exhibitors and 900 day pass visitors. Total number 3,063 attendees. At the opening ceremony 1,800 and at the keynotes 950 participants. Australia can be considered safe in international standards – both in terrorism, street safety and natural disasters.

**Member association:** The bid is made by the Institution of Surveyors Australia (ISA) which is merging with other associations to the Spatial Sciences Institute. ISA had 2,440 members and the new SSI will have about 5,000 members. ISA has made financial commitment from its own funds and sponsorship. The Institute of Surveyors, NSW has 1,100 members including over 800 licensed surveyors.

**Supportive organizations:** The bid is supported by the New South Wales Department of Lands with financial support of 29,500 € and in kind support; SSI, SSI Young Professionals; Australian Spatial Information Business Association; Spatial Information Council for Australia and New Zealand; NZIS; Prime Minister of Australia; Premier of NSW; Ministers for State Development NSW; for Infrastructure and Planning /Natural Resources; for Education Science and Training and Lord Mayor of Sydney.

Support from university and academic world in Sydney (scientific and volunteers).

Expected to get 30 % of travel expenses of 20 speakers from developing countries ( max ~30,000 €).

**City:** ISA considered three destinations in Australia (Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns) and decided to propose Sydney as the venue for FIG 2010. Sydney is one of the leading conference cities in the world and gateway to Australia.

**Venue:** Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre has a central location in Darling Harbour and has several hotels within walking distance in all categories. In the area there are lots of restaurants etc. The meeting and exhibition facilities satisfy the needs of the FIG congress.

**Access:** Sydney gets 45 % of Australia's international passenger traffic. 37 airlines fly to the international airport. Support from Qantas as official carrier. Airport is 8 km from the business district (taxi 14 €).

No problems with visas.

**Safety:** Ranked politically as one of the safest countries in the world. Safe to move around even in evening.

**Time of the conference:** Preliminary booking 7-14 May 2010. Can be organized between March and September 2010.

**Technical programme:** No problems to the national part of the programme. Possibility to extend the scope with SSI topics. National SSI / ISA conference to be organized parallel.

**Technical tours:** Can cover all technical commissions.

**Social programme:** Excellent social tour possibilities and selection for social events. First class pre- and post-conference opportunities.

**Attendance:** National conference of SSI will be organized in conjunction to the FIG Congress.

**Hotels:** Average costs of a night's stay in July 2004 was 58 €. On-site hotels: Star City (5 star), Novotel (4-star) and Ibis Darling Harbour (3-star). Example of prices: Star City: €117-€140.

**Finances:** Draft budget is based on profit of 121,000 € based on 2,000 delegates. Conference centre rental 70,000 € (includes 60 % reduction based on the size of the event). Basic registration fee 560 € daily catering included. Break-even is 1,000 participants.

Exhibition income 300,000 € for 140 booths (3x3m). No problem for this number based on the ISA national events.

Sponsorship income: 235,000 €.

The draft budget is done professionally. Room specs etc. need to be refined later.

**Attractiveness:** Sydney is internationally attractive and has improved its position after the 2000 Olympic Games. Lot of new attractions after the 1994 FIG Congress. According to statistics conferences in Sydney have gained better attendance than in previous venues, see FIG statistics attached.

**Possible pros and cons:**

#### Issues supporting Sydney

- A strong member association whose representatives have been active in FIG for a longer time. The association is getting even stronger and can bring support to the arrangements in work power, as national attendance and will also be able to bring new elements to the conference

- Australia is an attractive destination for international conferences, even though there are long distances it seems that it gets better participation figures than normal destinations
- Regionally Australia balances Eurocentric FIG. The previous FIG Congress has been in Asia/Pacific in 1994.
- Professional organising team.
- Good access by air (from Asia and Western parts of North America closer the Europe); even though long flights to Europeans. On the contrary (as seen from 1994 congress) attractive to accompanying persons.
- Financially well-prepared and income to FIG is guaranteed.

#### Issues against Sydney:

- There has been an FIG Congress in Australia in 1994.
- “Far away destination” to Europeans who a major part of the delegates – airfare costs will be higher than to some other destinations.
- Finances compared to other destinations:

## **Vienna, Austria**

**Region:** Europe. The previous conferences: 2006 Europe (Germany), 2002 North America (USA); 1998 Europe (United Kingdom); 1994 Asia and the Pacific (Australia); 1990 Europe (Finland); 1986 North America (Canada). Every second conference in the past has been in Europe and every second outside Europe.

**Country:** Austria has never hosted an FIG PC Meeting or Congress.

Austria can be considered safe in international standards – both in terrorism, street safety and natural disasters.

**Member association:** The bid is made by the Austrian Society of Surveying and Geoinformation. OVG has 640 members and has its headquarters in Vienna. OVG has been active in FIG and its commissions for a long time.

**Supportive organizations:** The bid is supported by the Mayor of the City of Vienna; Executive City Councilor of Finance, Economic Affairs and Vienna Public Enterprises. Support from the Vienna Convention Bureau about 30,000-35,000 € if the conference in March or July/August.

**City:** Vienna is known for its culture and located in the heart of Europe. It hosts some UN Headquarters like UN OOSA which may help in the conference programme. Vienna is also a “gateway” to Eastern Europe.

**Venue:** There are two options for the venue: the Austria Center Vienna next to the UN Headquarters and the Reed Messe Vienna which was opened 2004.

**Access:** Vienna has an easy access from all over the world. Austrian Airlines (Star Alliance contract will apply – 10-20 % discounts plus free tickets). The airport is 19 km from the city centre, 20 minutes by train (9 €).

No problems with visas.

**Safety:** Ranked politically as one of the safest countries in the world. Safe to move around even in evening.

**Time of the conference:** Austria Center Vienna is offering dates 21-26 March or 9-14 May 2010 and Reed Messe Vienna 4-9 July 2010. Other options will be available later this year. Support from the Vienna Convention Bureau about 30,000-35,000 € if the conference in March or July/August.

**Technical programme:** No problems to the national part of the programme.

**Technical tours:** Can cover all technical commissions. TU Vienna, BOKU, Vienna, research institutes, BEV, Land registration office, City of Vienna, private companies, modern technology, power station, city planning and renewal, archaeological site.

**Social programme:** Excellent social tour possibilities and selection for social events. Welcome reception at the Town Hall, 75 % of costs covered by the City of Vienna. Excellent pre- and post-conference options.

**Attendance:** National conference of OVG will be organized in conjunction to the FIG Congress.

**Hotels:** Five star hotels in City Centre (rack rates): 190-260 €, four-star 100-140 € and three-star: 60-100 €. Conference rates for UN meeting in December 2004 between 80-120 €.

**Finances:** Draft budget is based on 2,000 participants.

Conference Centre rentals: Austria Center Vienna: 136,380 € and Reed Messe 161,700 €.

No budget information at the moment. The financial goals can be reached based on the experiences from other conferences in Vienna and exhibition income.

Room specs etc. need to be refined later. Vienna is rated quite well within Europe on the average costs per conference delegate, but is more expensive than the non-European destinations for FIG 2010.

**Attractiveness:** Vienna is one of the most attractive destinations in the world for conferences.

**Possible pros and cons:**

#### Issues supporting Vienna

- There has never been an FIG congress or working week in Austria.
- Vienna is internationally attractive and well-known destination and conference venue.
- The member association is very active and professional, good support in Vienna (BEV, universities, municipality etc.)
- Good access.

### Issues against Vienna:

- Vienna is a European destination. In the past every second conference has been in Europe and every second outside Europe.
- Vienna is rated quite well within Europe on the average costs per conference delegate, but is more expensive than the non-European destinations for FIG 2010.

### **Edmonton, Canada**

**Region:** North America. The previous conferences 2006 Europe (Germany), 2002 North America (USA); 1998 Europe (United Kingdom); 1994 Asia and the Pacific (Australia); 1990 Europe (Finland); 1986 North America (Canada).

**Country:** Canada has hosted the Congress in 1986 in Toronto. The attendance figures were: 1,484 participants from 71 countries. 419 delegates out of 1,004 were from outside of Canada. 355 accompanying persons; 193 (+450) exhibitors and 379 day pass visitors to the exhibition. Total number 2,482 attendees. At the opening ceremony 1,500 and at the keynotes 450 participants.

Canada can be considered safe in international standards – both in terrorism, street safety and natural disasters.

**Member association:** The bid is made by the Canadian Institute of Geomatics. CIG has about 800 members. In the CIG letter it is stated that FIG will be in charge of the contracts and that there will be no financial obligations to the CIG without prior negotiations with the member association. The practical arrangements will for major part be done by the Alberta Land Surveyors association who has their headquarters in Edmonton and is a very active association. The FIG Bureau was located in Edmonton from 1984 to 1987.

**Supportive organizations:** Natural Resources Canada, Alberta Director of Surveys, Alberta Land Surveyors Association. The is support from all Canadian surveyors to the bid as well as from the University of Calgary

Financial support from government / national level is open.

Full support from the City of Edmonton (free rent of the conference centre).

**City:** CIG considered three destinations in Canada (Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver) and decided to propose Edmonton as the venue for FIG 2010. Edmonton is the capital of the Province of Alberta. The metropolitan area of Edmonton has about 1 million inhabitants. Edmonton is known for oil industry but also as a festival city and known for the West Edmonton Mall.

**Venue:** Shaw Convention Centre downtown Edmonton has several hotels within walking distance in all categories as well as the services of the city. The meeting and exhibition facilities satisfy the needs of the FIG congress.

**Access:** Most international delegates have to enter Edmonton via Vancouver, Toronto or Montreal with direct connections to Edmonton. Direct flights from USA.

No problems with visas.

**Safety:** Ranked politically as one of the safest countries in the world. Safe to move around even in evening.

**Time of the conference:** Preliminary booking 4-11 June 2010. The conference need to be organized between May and August/September because of the climate.

**Technical programme:** 8 technical commissions can be easily covered in the technical programme by Canadians input. It is likely that the national conference will be organized together with the FIG Congress and the annual conference of ALSA will be integrated. The oil industry may offer interesting new options to the programme and exhibition.

**Technical tours:** Can cover 8 out of the ten technical commissions.

**Social programme:** Evening arrangements can be organized – there are options based on the Canadian history etc. First class pre- and post-conference opportunities.

**Attendance:** National conference of CIG will most likely be organized in conjunction with to the FIG Congress. ALSA conference will be linked which guarantees a good local attendance. International marketing needs a big boost because Edmonton is perhaps not as well-known as some other destinations.

**Hotels:** Hotels within walking distance to the Shaw Conference Centre are priced between 50-115 €.

**Finances:** Draft budget is based on 1,000 paid delegates (expected attendance 2,000). Break even is based on 1,000 paid registrations and 75 exhibit booths. Registration fee: 375 €. Exhibit income:  $75 \times 625 \text{ €} = 47,000 \text{ €}$ . Sponsorship: 35,000 €.

Shaw Conference Centre rent: free of charge if 2,000 room nights at designated conference hotels – which is easily matched.

The very preliminary budget is based on the bidding document and needs redrafting.

The proposed figures are quite low what comes to exhibitions and sponsorship at the recent FIG events.

**Attractiveness:** Canada is an attractive destination but Edmonton is not as well-known as Sydney or Vienna. The conference in Toronto was quite well attended, see attached statistics, but at that time the role of FIG and the congress was different than today.

### **Possible pros and cons:**

#### Issues supporting Edmonton

- Cheapest option which is based on the following: no rent for the conference centre, hotels are cheaper than in the other destinations, which gives an opportunity to have lower registration fees.
- Strong association in Alberta based in Edmonton, which offers good local support.
- Canada offers good pre- and post-conference opportunities

- The oil and mining industry may offer opportunities beyond the normal conference, exhibition and sponsorship.
- Canada is a non-European destination, the latest conference in Canada has been in 1986 and in North America in 2002.
- There are enough venues for social events that are needed during the week, however the number of options is smaller than in Vienna or in Sydney.

Issues against Edmonton:

- There is not support for all 10 commissions – but this is a minor problem
- Although ALSA is very strong and there is good local support the closest university with surveying programme is in Calgary.
- There may be problems to match the goal of surplus to FIG because of the lower interest of exhibitors and delegates than in some of the other destinations. This is compensated with lower rates and fees. It can also be helped with right-marketing.
- For most delegates one additional stop is needed to reach Edmonton – which will also have some impact to air fares.