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Cover picture: while the teaching of geography came under scrutiny following last year's publication of an Ofsted report, one can find many examples of where pupils' knowledge of people, places and environments is extensive, and where the teaching is lively, topical and well informed, as this issue highlights.

## Editorial

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Events – Listing can now be found on [www.geoconnexion.com](http://www.geoconnexion.com)

## MapLink Pro 7.0 from Envitia launched

Envitia is launching the next generation of *MapLink Pro* and introducing the most powerful and flexible version of the tool kit to date. Featuring over 400 enhancements to both the Windows and Linux platforms, *MapLink Pro 7.0* provides high performance and flexible components for the most demanding geospatial systems. *MapLink Pro* takes advantage of modern 64-bit hardware and utilises multi-threading to boost performance by up to 60%.

*MapLink Pro 7.0* maintains the unrivalled disparate data integration and extensive file format support of all previous releases and extends this with Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) compliant Web Processing Services (WPS). Through the support of open standards and web services *MapLink Pro 7.0* opens up opportunities for developers to maximise high performance Service Oriented applications. [www.envitia.com](http://www.envitia.com)



Peter Fitzgibbon,  
Editor

## Making the most of UK talent

*'The UK is a leading research nation in the world in terms of the number of articles that it publishes annually. It is also a leading research nation in the world in terms of the usage and citation of those articles, both of which indicate that its articles are high quality. While the UK has far fewer researchers than larger countries such as the US and China, as a country, it is far more efficient in terms of output per researcher... UK researchers generate more articles per researcher, more citations per researcher, and more usage per article authored as measured by global downloads of UK articles.'*

The above extract from a recently-published report, compiled by Elsevier for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)<sup>1</sup>, paints a rosy picture of Britain's strong research base, as measured by its field-weighted output of scientific literature. This is particularly so in the Humanities where it holds proportionally more competencies than comparator nations.

Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts, was quick to capitalise on the report's findings. "We are committed to maintaining this leading position and building on the UK's fantastic record of academic and scientific achievement. That's exactly why we protected the £4.6 billion science and research budget and have invested nearly an additional £300 million in science capital projects over the past year."

So is UK plc in general and the GI industry in particular making the most of this surfeit of talent? The report indicates that, across all disciplines, the proportion of moves to the private sector from university in the UK is around 66 per cent, similar to that of other large countries.

Congratulations all round then. Well not quite, for a Research Paper published last year by the BIS<sup>2</sup> highlights the poor showing of Geography when it comes to engagement between careers advisory staff and employers. There are, of course, excellent examples of the GI industry's links with the education sector at all levels, but it does beg the question as to whether these need strengthening. Commencing with our next issue, we will be exploring the issue in more depth.

<sup>1</sup> *International Comparative Performance of the UK Research Base – 2011.* [www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/science/docs/i/11-p123-international-comparative-performance-uk-research-base-2011](http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/science/docs/i/11-p123-international-comparative-performance-uk-research-base-2011)

<sup>2</sup> *Supporting Graduate Employability: HEI Practice in Other Countries.* [www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/higher-education/docs/s/11-913-supporting-graduate-employability-other-countries.pdf](http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/higher-education/docs/s/11-913-supporting-graduate-employability-other-countries.pdf)

## Cadcorp adds routing capability to free-to-use OS map data

Users of **Cadcorp** SIS web mapping and geographic information systems software will be able to get even more value from their free to use **Ordnance Survey Meridian™ 2** mapping data for Great Britain. Thanks to a new plug-in, SIS users will be able not only to view the roads of Great Britain as backdrop to their mapping applications, but also to navigate those roads as part of a topologically structured transport network. Cadcorp is providing this enhanced capability free of charge. What is significant about the new plug-in is that it takes advantage of the link and node metadata from the Meridian 2 database

and builds a topological network from the different feature layers, even though the underlying data format is not topological. [www.cadcorp.com](http://www.cadcorp.com)  
[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)



## FARO and KOREC sign agreement

FARO is delighted to announce that it has signed a distribution agreement with KOREC to supply the FARO Laser Scanner Focus3D Laser Scanner, an instrument which uses laser technology to produce incredibly detailed three-dimensional images of complex environments and geometries in only a few minutes. Since FARO launched the first large scale scanner, the LS 80/80 the historical sales indicated that large scale scanning has been adopted increasingly by the surveying and

construction industries.

Andrew Tagg, Regional Manager of FARO UK said: "KOREC have a presence and respect in these markets which you cannot buy. The cohesion between traditional surveying tools and large scanning means KOREC can leverage our "game changing" FARO Laser Scanner Focus3D, expand our market presence whilst also expanding their own product portfolio for their customers".

[www.faro.com](http://www.faro.com) [www.korecgroup.com](http://www.korecgroup.com)

## Snowflake deliver first loading tool to support AddressBase

**Snowflake Software** showcased its market leading loading tool, **GO Loader**, at the 'Everything Happens Somewhere' conference in Nottingham, on 3 November 2011. GO Loader is the first tool on the market to support the recently announced **AddressBase** products from Ordnance Survey and GeoPlace. The generic, standards based data loading tool, has been supporting customers in loading Ordnance Survey mapping products for

several years, including OS MasterMap, OS VectorMap and the OS OpenData suite of products. The additional support for the new AddressBase products makes it a first in the marketplace. Snowflake customers are able to load and manage their AddressBase product into Oracle, SQL Server 2008 or PostGIS and connect and visualise to a choice of GIS including ArcGIS and MapInfo."

[www.snowflakesoftware.com](http://www.snowflakesoftware.com)

**agi**

Association for  
Geographic Information

Influencing Informing Acting  
[www.agi.org.uk](http://www.agi.org.uk)



## Old aerial photographs from Bluesky, help defend land owner's rights

**Bluesky** supplied the historic Aerial photography dating back to the 1940s to provide crucial evidence in a long running battle for public access to a historic site on Dartmoor, England. A Planning Inquiry ruled in favour of the landowner who bought the land around Vixen Tor in 2003, closing off access to the general public. The order to open two paths across the land was made by Devon County Council with support from The Ramblers and the British Mountaineering Council.

Aerial photographs complete with certificates of authentication from their **OldAerialPhotos** archive providing factual and unbiased evidence for further investigation by **Air Photo Services**, a company specialising in interpretation of aerial imagery.

[www.bluesky-world.com](http://www.bluesky-world.com) [www.airphotoservices.co.uk](http://www.airphotoservices.co.uk)

## West Midlands Fire Service in double award win with Chimp

**West Midlands Fire Service's (WMFS)** Information Communications Technology section is celebrating after a double award win at the National Gazetteer Exemplar Awards. The two awards were scooped up by the team in recognition of the excellent technology they created, known as 'Chimp', which provides vital data to Firefighters as they arrive on the scene at emergency incidents. 'Chimp' uses open source technology exclusively and is a dynamic gazetteer-generator and integrated extract, transform and load tool which can coalesce traditionally disjointed data products by generating bespoke and feature-rich gazetteer software.

[www.wmfs.net](http://www.wmfs.net)

## GGP Systems and Urbaser clean up on the Isle of Wight

**Urbaser**, the environmental services company is using the latest GIS technology from **GGP Systems** to coordinate street cleaning services on the Isle of Wight. Urbaser will be using the GGP GIS to map information such as bin locations, road sections and pavements to be cleansed as well as the planning work such as fly tipping clearance. The system will allow managers to effectively plan and deliver routine cleansing services and to manage the response to ad hoc requests from the Council or members of the public.

[www.ggpsystems.co.uk](http://www.ggpsystems.co.uk)



## Cell C, South Africa's third largest mobile operator selects Telmap

**Telmap** has been selected by **Cell-C**, South Africa's third largest mobile operator, to power "**Cell-C Explorer**", bringing a highly advanced personal search, mapping and navigation service to Cell-C subscribers. Telmap's white label, hosted and managed mobile search, mapping and navigation solution will be fully customized to the Cell-C brand, look and feel. Cell-C Explorer will include features such as in-car navigation with 3D moving maps, text to speech technology announcing street names, a dedicated pedestrian mode, a find-my-car widget for those of us having trouble remembering where we parked, access to Lonely Planet content as well as additional hyper-local content from leading South African brands/businesses and services that have been added to the Cell-C Explorer widget carousel in order to provide users with an enhanced local experience while on-the-go. <http://global.telmap.com> [www.cellc.co.za](http://www.cellc.co.za)



L to R, Kevin Feddy, MEN Business Editor, Keith Hendry, Managing Director of APEM, Dr Adrian Williams, Director, Stuart Clough, Director, and Alistair Campbell

## Apem wins Business of the Year Award

**APEM**, a science consultancy specialising in aquatic science and remote sensing, has won a prestigious award at the annual **Manchester Evening News (MEN)** 'Business of the Year' ceremony. The award, which is given to businesses with a turnover under £10m, was presented to APEM last week at the Lancashire County Cricket Club by Alistair Campbell, former Director of Communications at No. 10. The MEN paid a special mention to the Stockport firm's aerial surveying technology – so advanced that it is able to detect wavelengths invisible to the human eye – which has 'proved invaluable to developers of off-shore wind farms'. Since the consultancy was founded in 1987, APEM has kept a close relationship with Manchester, particularly its waterways, and this year APEM embarked on a litter project on the River Irwell basin to clear the water surrounding the MediaCity UK complex in Salford Quays.

[www.apemltd.co.uk](http://www.apemltd.co.uk)

## Dotted Eyes web solution adopted by housing associations

**Shoreline Housing Partnership**, a provider of affordable housing in North East Lincolnshire, has rolled out **Dotted Eyes'** latest intranet mapping solution, RMX4, to provide its customer service team with greater visibility of its assets whilst improving the efficiency of its workforce. With coverage of over 7,900 homes across North East Lincolnshire, the Shoreline staff use the **RMX4** intranet mapping solution to easily visualise and share information about their properties. This is already helping it to improve the efficiency of its customer service team and reduce costs. Built on top of a single, open source technology stack, RMX4 provides the flexibility Shoreline needs to accommodate future change whilst significantly reducing the cost of multiple desktop licences. Due to RMX4's user friendly interface, the Shoreline staff were able to use the solution from day one, rather than having to undergo intensive training or being reliant on costly analytical resource to manipulate the data for them.

[www.dottedeyes.com](http://www.dottedeyes.com)