

Intergraph UK 2011 User Group Conference

A smallish gathering, perhaps, but with backing from new owners Hexagon, Intergraph users across Britain can look forward to strong ongoing support and a raft of new products

Around 50 participants attended the two-day event in mid-October under the banner 'Exploiting Geospatial Technology to Improve Business', and hosted by Intergraph at its Technology Centre in Swindon.

Much had clearly changed in a corporate business sense since the last such gathering, not least Intergraph's acquisition by Hexagon a year back for US\$2.1 billion in cash, plus a spate of subsequent purchases by the Swedish design, measurement and visualisation giant to reinforce its global presence in the geospatial sector.

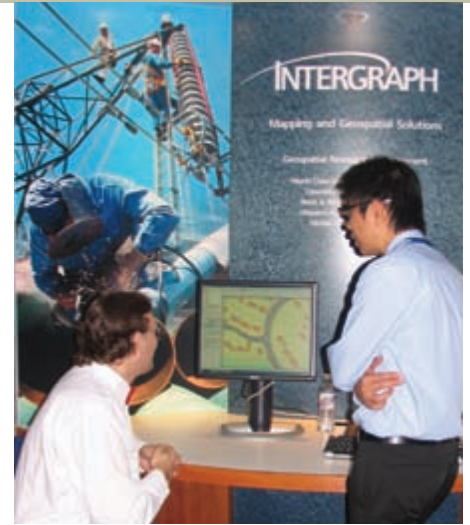
Following a welcome from Sue Lampard, co-chair of Intergraph's Public Safety User Group, Horst Harbauer, senior vice president of Intergraph's EMEA Security, Government & Infrastructure (SG&I) business, was on hand to introduce Alun Pearsey, the new UK country manager. He went on to explain how the latest acquisitions – Denali, Augusta and Sisgraph – fitted into the corporate scheme of things, not least in emerging markets. The latter was underscored by Hexagon's success in China over the past five years, with revenues growing from under US\$100 million to five times that amount.

He continued by outlining the five strands of SG&I's ongoing strategy. This envisages the business enhancing its geospatial foundation;

extending its leadership in public safety; increasing its domain expertise in utilities and communications; delivering solutions for government, transportation and defence, and developing new solutions based on a combination of Leica/ERDAS and SG&I software.

Harbauer concluded by announcing the roadmap for forthcoming software releases, with GeoMedia Pro 7.0 due to ship in Q2 of next year. It will incorporate new raster imagery components arising from SG&I's EGF (Enhanced Geospatial Foundation) R&D initiative... the new platform upon which all Intergraph and ERDAS products will eventually be built. Also due to ship next year is a GeoMedia smart client (formerly known in Europe as 'ResPublica'), as are I/CAD 9.2, G/Technology Fibre Optic Works software, and enhanced GINLIS solutions for electrical network management.

Among those presenting on the opening day were Bruno Mucciolo, a senior consultant from Frost & Sullivan, who outlined the security and public safety challenges posed by the evolution of megacities across the globe; Martin Lea of Ordnance Survey who gave an update on GeoPlace addressing products, OS OpenData and the Public Sector Mapping Agreement; and Robert Widz, Intergraph's Head of Government in the EMEA region, who spoke on the



evolution of geoportals and their growing impact, not just for viewing information but as integration platforms. Susan Lampard returned to the rostrum, this time wearing her hat as a Superintendent with Surrey Police, to give an illuminating insight into preparations for the 2012 Olympics.

Presentations delivered on the second day ranged from the purchase of land for the Channel Tunnel rail link to interoperability between ERDAS and Intergraph product sets, and from Serco's use of Intergraph's transportation solution to build a web portal for Britain's Highways Agency, to how the RAC is exploiting the company's I/CAD command and control system.

As well as half a dozen exhibition 'pods' at which delegates could discuss sector-specific issues in detail, the event featured two hands-on workshops – performance tuning of GeoMedia

Web Map and an introduction to GeoMedia's SDI Portal – a prize draw, and an after-hours social programme.



Sue Lampard



Horst Harbauer



Bruno Mucciolo



Martin Lea



Robert Widz