

NEWS BRIEFS

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mail@geoconnexion.com

South African Track & Trace Service

launched. **KCS BV**, hardware developer and manufacturer of TraceME, and **ATsence BV**, software developer and supplier of Track and Trace solutions, are announcing the launch of a tracking and tracing service for South Africa. The past three years, TraceME has proved to be a reliable unit for tracking & tracing cars, boats, portable equipment, etc. all around the world by GPS and GPRS. Its small size makes it easy to install and many devices, like a camera, can be monitored or controlled. Users are able to track their objects and generate extensive reports containing addresses (via reversed geocoding), speeds, timestamps, heights etc. Maps can also be viewed in 3D. Both companies are committed to provide the best possible solutions for customers based in South Africa. **Krijn Kolff**, managing director of KCS BV, says that. Customers get the best of both worlds: highly reliable hardware and an accurate and fast mapping solution, both for very competitive prices. Real time behaviour is of key importance for tracking & tracing. With Locate, we've achieved to display positions, generated in South Africa, within 5 seconds on our maps, available anywhere in the world, adds **Bart van Heijningen**, Managing Director of **ATsence B.V.**
www.traceme.tv www.atsence.nl
www.locate.nl

ASTEROP of Paris, France, is to supply its Geointelligence decision support system to the Credit du Nord banking group. The intranet-based solution will be integrated with Credit du Nord's internal information system via a datamart based on Oracle and deployed to support customer, market and product-related studies.
www.asterop.com

EADS Astrium, the European satellite system specialist, has reinforced its commitment to expanded Earth Observation services with the formation of **Infoterra France**. This addition to **Infoterra** companies in the UK and Germany integrates ISTAR and some teams from EADS Astrium and will enable the business to offer a portfolio ranging from data acquisition and processing through to sophisticated geo-information services.
www.space.eads.net
www.infoterra-global.com

A recently-signed cooperative agreement between **EUMETSAT** and the French **Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)** outlines the responsibilities of the two agencies in relation to Jason-2, an Earth observation mission dedicated to Ocean Surface Topography that is planned for launch in 2008. The move follows the earlier signing of a four party agreement for the Jason-2 Programme between NOAA, NASA, CNES and EUMETSAT.
www.eumetsat.int
www.cnes.fr

European Space Imaging has been awarded a new framework contract by the European Commission covering the supply of global Very High Resolution (VHR) satellite imagery for agricultural, environmental and security programmes. The contract, valued at ?11.4 million over the next four years, covers the delivery of **IKONOS**, **OrbView** and future **GeoEye-1** VHR satellite imagery.
www.euspaceimaging.com.

Global Relief Technologies (GRT) of the USA is teaming with **GeoEye Inc.**, the world's largest commercial provider of satellite imagery, and **Telenor Satellite Services** to

deliver timely satellite imagery to emergency relief workers operating around the world. "Humanitarian and emergency response organizations' demand for satellite imagery has persisted from one crisis to another; through the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Tsunami-impacted area of the Indian Ocean, and even in the response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster," said **James Abrahamson**, former Air Force General and a member of GRT's Board of Directors, "Facilitating the delivery of map-accurate satellite imagery is of critical importance to emergency workers since it provides a common operating picture that is invaluable to relief operations — and to those running them."
www.globalrelieftech.com

The RaveGeo web platform from **Idevio AB** of Göteborg, Sweden, has been selected by **IQObject AB**, also of Göteborg, to support **EasyGuard™**, a new web map service with which customers can easily locate stolen property. The service employs sharp vector maps from Tele Atlas and the user can zoom and pan at a blazing speed, claims Idevio, leaving traditional web maps like Yahoo and Google far behind.
www.idevio.com
www.easygard.se

FIG Congress 2006, October 8-13, 2006 – register now! The organizers of the FIG Congress 2006 have received more than 600 abstracts for the Congress. Decision on the accepted papers will be done and the authors informed by the end of May 2006. Deadline for full papers is 15 July 2006. Deadline for speakers' registration is 15 June 2006. Registrations at normal registration fee will close 31 July 2006. Read more about FIG

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2006: www.fig2006.de. Register on the conference web site. Please book your hotel immediately after you have registered! Deadline for entries to the FIG Congress Prize 2006 is 15 July 2006. Read more: http://www.fig.net/fig_2006/congress_pri ze_2006.htm

PCI Geomatics announced the signing of a strategic distributor partnership with **TGIS Technologies Inc.** The agreement will allow PCI Geomatics to market, distribute, and sell the TGIS real-time GeoConference Software. TGIS Technologies, a Canadian owned and operated business, built GeoConference to allow users to hold Internet teleconferences based on multi-source geospatial information. This unique solution allows groups to capture, preserve, and reuse geographic information, track and coordinate resources and interventions, and transmit geospatial data in real-time for effective, enterprise-wide decision making.

www.pcigeomatics.com

MapAction, a UK based charity, has deployed a team of six volunteers to Suriname, South America to provide situational mapping to the United Nations and the Government. Since 1st May, torrential rains have affected the entire South and parts of Central Suriname causing several major rivers to rise rapidly and submerge an area of approximately 30,000 km². According to first assessments made by the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Control (Natioaal Coordinatie Centrum voor Rampenbeheersing, NCCR), a total of 37,000 people have been affected. The President of Suriname requested assistance from the United Nations and the international community to coordinate and strengthen relief efforts in the affected areas. Several volunteers from MapAction arrived in the capital.

www.mapaction.org

Cutting the Wires has called upon WLAN providers to put an end to the 'tyranny' that is affecting business users who regularly connect to the Internet via Public WiFi access points, known as 'Hotspots'. Laptop and PDA users who need to access their email or corporate applications whilst on the move currently need to subscribe to several accounts - often from a diverse group of WiFi Providers - in order to access the Internet from different public locations. Mobile business users typically connect to the Internet either between meetings, whilst waiting for a train or aeroplane, or at a hotel, so planning an entire workday around locations that will allow access to a certain WiFi access provider is just not practical. Users are unlikely to be at the same location every time they want to connect to the Internet, so long-term single-provider

subscriptions have also proven to be unpopular, since WiFi service providers are likely to be different every time the user wants to connect via a public hotspot. "It is no wonder that WLAN service providers are struggling to generate a sustainable revenue stream, when they are missing a golden opportunity to address the needs of the end users they are targeting," says **Andre Axford**, CEO Cutting the Wires. "Instead of playing a crude 'land grab' game that focuses on shop fronts, burger bars, and gas stations, WLAN Service providers should be looking at the longer-term potential of the business-user market."

www.cuttingthewires.com

Berg Insight published its new report "Mobile Personal Navigation Services" a report covering the European and US markets. What are the opportunities for mobile industry players on the booming personal navigation market? After PDA systems which opened up the market and PND systems which popularised it, handset based solutions are expected to bring personal navigation to the broad masses. Navigation is proving to be the location-based service with the far greatest potential in the wireless industry. This 100+ page report in Berg Insight's LBS Research Series provides insights and detailed analysis of the personal navigation market in Europe and the United States.

www.berginsight.com

Tensing USA named **Integrated Mapping Services Inc.** (InMaps) of Holderness, N.H., as the newest Tensing Business Partner. As a Business Partner, InMaps is able to resell Tensing mobility products and integrate them with its own GIS and CAD applications to create custom mobile GIS solutions for gas and electric utility clients. "The Tensing and InMaps mobile GIS products complement each other to provide unique solutions for our clients in the utility sector," said **Arjan Plomp**, Tensing USA Managing Director. "We see many advantages to introducing our clients to InMaps products and having InMaps market our SPY line of mobility products to their customers."

www.tensing.com

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) has implemented its geographic information system (GIS) software, ArcGIS Server. ArcGIS Server is the basis of a VDOF program called the Integrated Forest Resource Information System (IFRIS), which is used to more efficiently and accurately manage forest lands. IFRIS will enable field staff to make better assessments of how landowners should manage their resources with respect to short- and long-term goals. The mapped data will also permit regional and statewide spatial analyses relative to other spatial units

such as watersheds, stewardship priority areas, economic impact zones, and others. VDOF contracted with Richmond, Virginia-based ESRI business partner, Timmons Group, for application development, infrastructure, infrastructure design, and configuration.

Timmons Group created the application to manage the more than 12 million acres of forest in Virginia.

www.esri.com

QinetiQ has signed a 77.3m, four year contract, covering its contribution to the **European 'Galileo InReach' Consortium** for Phase CDE1 of the European Galileo system. The Consortium, led by the Belgian company **Septentrio Satellite Navigation** (SSN), is contracted by the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop the Galileo second source Test User Segment (TUS). This will play a crucial role in the end to end evaluation and performance validation of the Galileo system during the In-Orbit Validation (IOV) phase.

www.qinितिq.com

Four companies spearheading innovative uses of geographic information are celebrating after winning Ordnance Survey partner awards. **QAS, Teleatlas, Garmin and Mapabsolute** all toasted success at an award ceremony hosted by Ordnance Survey's Director General and Chief Executive, **Vanessa Lawrence**. It was held during an annual partner conference involving the wide range of organisations and individuals who develop products and services based on Ordnance Survey's accurate, reliable and detailed geographic information. They are part of a tiered membership programme designed to reflect their needs and level of support.

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

ArtSystems the sole UK distributor of the new Context DESIGNmate Series of 3D printers has announced the appointment of their first accredited 3D reseller partner - **Hobs Reprographics**. Hobs have provided printing solutions to their clients for over 35 years and see their move into 3D printing to be the next logical step. On a firm foundation of Reprographic service and solutions Hobs have developed a network of 26 branches and over 375 employees across the UK and Ireland serving the AEC and large format technical print market. With the Context DESIGNmate range of 3D printers, a whole new dimension can be offered to the customer. By offering the service as a bureau, the first DESIGNmate Cx in the country has been installed into Hobs Deansgate, Manchester. This not only enables Hobs to move forward in the 3D CAD marketplace, but also allows their customers to easily acquire a 3D model, quickly and cost effectively.

www.artsystems.co.uk