

OGC and CRCSI working together to make data most widely available

The CRC for Spatial Information (CRCSI) has joined forces with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), with the signing of a memorandum of understanding. The relationship with OGC will be especially strong with the CRCSI's Spatial Infrastructures research program.

"We'll be using OGC and other open standards in our research to help direct development of the next generation of spatial infrastructure in Australia and New Zealand", says Dr Geoff West, Science Director of the CRCSI's Spatial Infrastructures research program.

CRCSI input to the OGC will inform the direction of research for existing and new OGC standards. "By using OGC standards, we ensure our research communicates directly with other systems."

The agreement will leverage the collective expertise of many of the CRCSI's partnering organisations to position research outputs for rapid utilisation.

Further to the linked research goals, CRCSI and OGC will share outreach and marketing materials to increase awareness of the increasing influential role of open standards in location based research. Joint activities may include introduction of interoperability requirements into the OGC consensus process, and the sponsorship/funding of CRCSI research interoperability and compliance testing requirements in OGC's Interoperability Program testbeds and pilot initiatives.

"We are particularly pleased with this new partnership. It will expand our reach internationally and accelerate the rate at which we learn about and contribute to international standards developments" says Peter Woodgate, CEO of the CRCSI.

Mark Reichardt, President and CEO of the OGC noted "We are delighted to have CRCSI's participation and leadership in the OGC international process. The impact of research organisations like CRCSI in the OGC international process is significant. Research organisations understand the power of open standards to support the rapid transition of research results into broad community application. They also benefit by partnering with other OGC public and private sector members to cooperatively advance important research objectives."

About CRCSI

The Australian and New Zealand Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information (CRCSI) conducts research and development projects that involve collaboration between government, corporate and academic resources. CRCSI creates new wealth for its participants and the nation through innovative research, application and commercialisation of spatial information technologies; through education; and through building collaborative partnerships. CRCSI currently has around 95 partner organisations.

About OGC

The OGC is an international consortium of more than 460 companies, government agencies, research organizations, and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available geospatial standards. OGC standards support interoperable solutions that "geo-enable" the Web, wireless and location-based services, and mainstream IT. OGC standards empower technology developers to make geospatial information and services accessible and useful with any application that needs to be geospatially enabled.

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