

Maps4Science touch and go!

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Evaluation & continuation

In late March, the consortium discussed NWO's evaluation of the M4S proposal. Our main conclusions were:

- M4S has generated much positive energy and its direct impact is already felt in deepened collaborations within and between university teams.
- The M4S proposal was very ambitious. Though left without funding this time, it has put spatial data provisioning for science in the spotlights, and we are now well-placed for reaping benefits in the near future.
- A generic M4S facility should aim to serve a number of demonstrator applications, and improve their results; closer interaction with these end-users is needed.

The consortium's current reconnaissance consists of three pathways, possibly to be combined:

- Deepened collaboration between the library geo-desks, to become operational M4S facilities.
- National extension: explore the stakes of stakeholders to extend the M4S facility as an "engine of innovation" for PDOK (Public Services On the Map), serving diverse end-users.
- International extension: exploration of the stakes of European counterparts, for instance during the upcoming AGILE conference, at end of April in Avignon.

With this, we hope to provide M4S with the stepwise development that it deserves. We will keep you informed!

Urgent: Groundbreaking idea for Geo @ TEDx?

TEDxBinnenhof, the independent TED event for The Netherlands, is looking for Dutch origin inspiration with the small ambition of furthering our world. Have you got a bright idea on the issue of Spatial4Social, Open Geodata, or anything Geo that is exciting? Register for the *Catwalk for Innovation*, as soon as you can at <http://tedxbinnenhof.com/>

Current use of geodesks

What is the current status of digital map products from our academic geo-desks? We provide an overview here of the use of Kadaster data at the TU Delft library in 2011, from its web portal as well as from the physical hand-out desk of the TU Delft map room (total number 14.924, among which):

- 13.194 downloads via portal TU Delft Maps
- 1.730 Hand-outs by map room

An approximate total of 15% of TU Delft population currently make use of spatial data. Some of these are bulk consumers, having used over 300 data sets. A definite trend in their usage is the preference for 'smart data sets', in either shape or GML format, which allow both spatial visualization and analysis, over 'flat map products'.



Digital delivery from the map room; on screen TU Delft Architecture building in 3D from AHN (laser height) data.

New at our website

The FAQ (37 pages with Q-and-A), that provides additional details to the M4S proposal text and the presentations that were used during various M4S strategic meetings, are now available at www.maps4science.nl.

About Maps4Science

At this moment, the M4S consortium has 10 partners: TU Delft (commissioner), UvA, WUR, UU, UT/ITC, VU/EduGIS, DANS, Alterra, NLR en Geonovum.

The main goal is to up-scale the national geo information research infrastructure with European potential and to improve spatial breakthroughs in other sciences.

Support is being given by the *ICT Innovatieplatform Geo-informatie* (IIPGEO), AeroVision and *Jacqueline Meerkerk Management*. The complete proposal and all support letters can be found at www.maps4science.nl

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