

# Positive developments around Maps4Science

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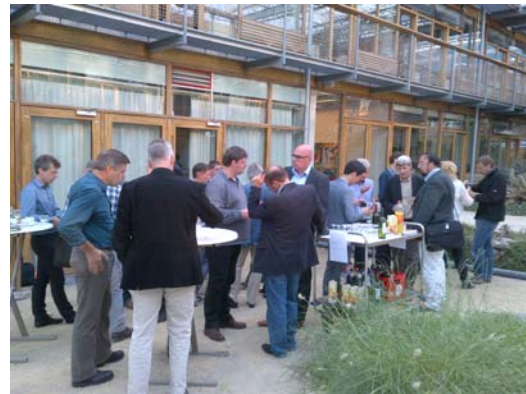
## A lot of support from the field for Maps4Science Partnership

The Workshop 'Verkenning doorstart Maps4Science' (Exploring new start Maps4Science) was organized at Wageningen University on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2012. Around 25 experts and researchers from different organisations (government, industry and knowledge institutes) participated. Goal was to set up a list of priorities of research themes and partners willing to give their commitment resulting – if possible – in a STW (Foundation for the Technical Sciences) Partnership Program proposal.

For this purpose an inventory of the various stakeholder interests in extending the M4S facility into a kind of 'innovation' engine for the National Geo Information Infrastructure c.q. PDOK (Public Services on the Map) and NMDC (National Models and Data Centre) was made.

Margriet Jansz of STW gave a short presentation about STW and the points of special interest of the Partnership Regulations. Recently it has become also possible to make use of these regulations as a consortium (and not only as an individual company) which makes it interesting for M4S. Among other things it is important that the research has potential for excellent quality, that it has users' commitment, and that it stimulates knowledge transfer. Besides the topic should be of strategic value and should

have its basis in the technology and engineering sciences. Finally STW co-financing should have impact and should make the difference. For a Partnership 1.5 M€ has to be raised (cash) from practise (users) after which STW doubles the amount to 3 M€. The research will be set out via open calls.



Having a chat afterwards in the inner garden of Wageningen University.

It became clear that many parties feel themselves provider as well as user of the M4S facility: from Maps4Science towards Maps4Society or Maps4All.

### **Hot themes: dynamic data, testing & validation and big data**

From the discussion it became clear that there is interest in a broad spectrum of research themes, spread over the entire geo information chain. Important themes are – among others – dynamic data and testing and validation to reach reliable data, and next to this handling big data sets. It is also necessary to join the top sector policy of the Dutch government. At the same time the wish was expressed to realise more M4S ambitions on a European level.

The discussion was followed by an exciting inventory of the willingness of parties to help thinking/to contribute/to co-finance.

All parties wanted to join and help to think and write in an active way.

Of course co-financing options were kept open. In some cases the higher

management has to be consulted. Nevertheless a number of parties already indicated first budgets. To reach a Partnership about 300 to 400 K€ per year over a period of 4 to 5 years from the practise (users) is needed. During this round it became also clear that it is advisable to link some use cases to the research. This will make financing easier and has also the advantage that the research can be guaranteed in the broad chain.

Conclusions:

- a lot of need for research cooperation regarding the M4S themes and support for the Partnership concept;
- focus of the research program will – of course – depend on the parties that will invest; Rijkswaterstaat is one of the core stakeholders;
- new start and design are supported by the ministries of EL&I (Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation), I&M (Infrastructure & the Environment) and OCW (Education, Culture & Science).

All in all an instructive and successful meeting with good sense of reality concerning finances and the benefit to keep in touch with practice via a case.

All presentations and the full report of the meeting can be downloaded from the website [www.maps4science.nl](http://www.maps4science.nl) (under Documents).

## Support STW – re-start Partnership!

Meanwhile a follow-up meeting took place with representatives of the STW direction (board). There is support for Maps4Science as Partnership and this subject has been classified as strategic. This means commitment for the topic and in principle funding from STW for the Partnership. Important is that there will be a link with top sectors/innovation contracts (especially HTSM (High Tech Systems & Materials), or Water, Logistics, etc.). This means that we can get busy! Meanwhile a core team is working on the establishment of the consortium and the program proposal. The

planning is quite ambitious. The intention is to present a concept at the NCG (Netherlands Geodetic Commission) meeting in December 2012. In case you like to join us as a practice partner or like to contribute in another way, please contact [jacqueline@jmmanagement.nl](mailto:jacqueline@jmmanagement.nl). Check our website for progress!

## Positive news running proposals

- The pre-proposals of two mentioned before eScience proposals (Massive point clouds for eSciences en PHENIX: an interactive explorer for phenological data) have both passed the first selection. September 19th 2012 a complete proposal for both has been submitted to NWO/SURF/eScience. The assessment and the outcome are expected before the end of 2012.
- The European Location Framework (ELF) FP7 proposal made a step in the right direction. The assessment was ranging from good to excellent. At this moment the negotiations with the EC about the implementation of the project are on-going. It became clear that the EC likes to replace the present coordinator EuroGeographics that has lead the consortium with 30 partners until now. A new coordinator – Statens Kartverk (the Norwegian Mapping Authority) – has been selected and recommended. Let us hope for the best. To be continued!

### 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 Geoinformatie* (IIPGEO), AeroVision and *Jacqueline Meerkerk Management*.

The complete proposal and all support letters can be found at [www.maps4science.nl](http://www.maps4science.nl)

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