

The Eduard Dolezal Award

The Eduard Dolezal Award is donated by the Austrian Society for Surveying and Geoinformation to assist individuals or representatives of institutions from developing or reform countries to participate in the ISPRS Congress. The winner is **George Sithole**, Zimbabwe.



Dr. Sithole is a senior lecturer of photogrammetry at the Geomatics Department of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Despite a heavy workload because of educational tasks, both for him and for the small research team in his department, he is very active in research, and he is, for example, involved in a number of papers to be presented at the congress in Melbourne.

Dr. Sithole conducted his PhD research at the TU Delft 2001-2005. The basis for this award is a publication he made during this period, entitled "Experimental comparison of filter algorithms for bare-Earth extraction from airborne laser scanning point clouds", which appeared in the ISPRS journal, August 2004. The paper introduces a test designed by Dr Sithole to determine the performance of filters extracting bare-earth DEMs from

airborne laser data. This paper has turned out to have presented the defacto standard for the evaluation of airborne lidar data filtering. The availability of such a standard is highly relevant in the light of the increasing routine production of high-density elevation datasets. e.g. the AHN-2 in the Netherlands, where automatic filtering has a decisive influence on the data quality. The importance of Dr. Sithole's paper in photogrammetry literature is illustrated by the number of citations made to it. According to Google Scholar the paper has been cited 265 times. In Scopus, where only citations in journal papers are considered, the count is at currently at 165. Scopus' citation counts also show that the relevance of the paper is still increasing: 64 citations were for the period 2005-2008 and 105 for 2009-2011. In the opinion of the jury the above qualifies Dr. Sithole for the Dolezal Award.