

Dear Reader,

As you may have heard from George himself, as he has been in continuous contact with many of his peers in the community, or as you may have read in his Editorial in last year's concluding issue, Dr. George Vosselman has stepped down as Editor in Chief of the *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*. On behalf of Elsevier and the journal, I would like to thank George very much for his dedication and all the efforts he put into the journal through the years.

George's commitment and hard work for the journal have been essential for its success. In 2004, George assumed responsibility of Editor in Chief. Under his leadership the journal has seen a continuous improvement of quality and has evolved into the reputable journal that it is today. The journal's JCR Impact Factor (Thomson Reuters) increased from 1.317 in 2004 when George started, to its current value of 2.885. This significant increase is in large part the result of George's clear focus on high quality content and strategic editorial steering. It is an exceptional achievement to improve a journal's quality so significantly while at the same time showing a significant growth of the number of articles published, serving the community as broadly as possible.

I feel sincerely honoured to have had the opportunity to work with George and I would like to thank him very much for all his hard work and the years of pleasant and fruitful collaboration.

As we say farewell to George as Editor in Chief, I would like to use the opportunity to welcome on board the journal's new Editor in Chief.

I am very pleased that Derek Lichti of the University of Calgary, Canada, will take on the journal's editorial leadership, starting January 2013. I had the pleasure of meeting with Derek at last year's ISPRS Congress in Melbourne. He then shared some interesting and innovative ideas to strategically take the *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* to the next level. Add to that the many solid contributions that Derek has already made to the journal, his commitment to ISPRS and his connections to the community as well as his enthusiasm to take on the responsibility of the Editor in Chief and I am confident that the journal will indeed continue its path of growth, both in terms of quality and quantity.

From 2013 onwards, the journal will publish twelve issues per year. In order to safeguard that this content expansion will not compromise the quality that you may expect from the *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, and to ensure an effective and efficient handling of the ever increasing number of manuscripts, the journal's team of Associate Editors will be expanded.

Last year, Saana Kaasalainen (Finland) already joined the team as Associate Editor. A slightly belated, but by no means less warm welcome to Saana.

I regret to inform you that due to other commitments, Dar Roberts decided to leave his position of Associate Editor. I would like to thank Dar very much for his work for the journal.

At the same time I am glad to be able to announce a strong new Associate Editor replacing Dar. Starting January 2013, Onesimo Mutanga from South Africa will join the team.

Jay Gao (new Zealand), Conghe Song (USA) and Uwe Soergel (Germany) have also accepted the position of Associate Editor, starting January 2013.

As the journal continues to grow, the team will be expanded. We will of course keep you informed.

For now, I would once again like to thank George Vosselman for all his contributions to the journal and extend a warm welcome to Derek Lichti as the new Editor in Chief and to the expanded team of Associate Editors.

I am sure that with the commitment of this well balanced, geographically diverse team, with expertise on a wide variety of relevant topics, representing the interdisciplinary scope of the journal, the *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* will continue to meet and exceed your expectations.

Sincerely,
Gert-Jan Geraeds