

Canadian Geomatics and the GEOIDE Network

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Geomatics in Canada is currently undergoing a period of moderate growth and consolidation, while world markets are developing more rapidly. There is still a need to concentrate the development of Canadian geomatics expertise and ensure strong ties between government, academia and industry so that new knowledge is transferred effectively. At the same time, a wide range of applications is emerging with consequent demands on the use and development of geomatics. The emergence of wireless technologies that support real-time use of locational and spatial information will only serve to enhance the increasingly central role these technologies play. There is a growing need to understand the impacts of these technologies both as application enablers and also for empowering groups outside the traditional triangle of government-industry-academia. The GEOIDE network plays an important role in many of these concerns. It serves a role as catalyst and model for knowledge transfer, as a privileged link between users of new applications and the core technology providers, and as a means to promote new geomatics developments and ensure that Canada is viewed as an innovator on the world stage. GEOIDE also fosters a certain philosophy of geomatics science, promoting the development of linkages between the engineering and computing disciplines, on the one hand, and a grounding in social dynamics on the other. This multi-disciplinary mix we believe to be fundamental to the development of an effective 21st century research environment. However, GEOIDE remains a small fish in a large sea. It is suggested that the network be viewed as a lever for growth and change by its member constituents and the wider community.