



Nevertheless, the Australian geospatial industry is not without its challenges. Despite currently boasting a strong geospatial community, Australia will require more IT and surveying skills if the industry is to scale to its full potential. However, with recent immigration reforms requiring employers to favour locally sourced skills over those from overseas, some question marks regarding the industry's ability to do so remain. Although Stjepanovic, whose company has previously used the 457 Visa system to sponsor overseas workers, respects the government's decision, he does warn of growing competition for professionals with the right mix of skills. He adds: "In our particular field, the skills shortage is compounded by not having enough graduates study surveying, spatial and software development courses. We are hopeful that young Australians will step up to the challenge and start to fill the skills gap that is emerging."

Despite facing potential hurdles to the industry's growth, Australia is a nation which 'gets' the importance of geospatial technology and information. The industry has so far played a key role in helping the country to avoid recession for some 25 years, and Australia boasts a thriving geospatial community which receives widespread support. Perhaps due to the sheer size of the country and the long association which it has with maps, the Australian people understand the value of location, as well as the many opportunities which it presents.

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<https://www.gim-international.com/content/article/australia-a-nation-embracing-its-geospatial-future-2>

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