

Geospatial Data for UK's Smart City Demonstrator Project



Ordnance Survey (OS) is currently in Manchester, UK, collecting geospatial data to a similar level that it did across all the 2012 Olympic sites. That project contributed to the successful planning and smooth delivery of a safe and enjoyable Summer Games. The activity OS is undertaking in the Corridor Manchester area is part of [CityVerve](#), the UK's Smart City demonstrator project.

OS is collecting this data to stimulate innovation that it and project partners believe will lead to better services for residents, visitors and business.

OS, whose [digital database](#) of Great Britain contains more than 500 million unique geographic features, presenting the most detailed, location data rich picture of the country,

is challenging itself through CityVerve to see what extra information can be found in the real world that will be of benefit to the nation.

Digital wayfinding

So far, the precise location of more than 40,000 individual street assets housed within the Corridor have been noted. OS is giving each of these street assets, such as street lamps, their own unique code and a detailed set of information that is specific to it. The aim is to provide partners with richer context to experiment with.

One of those partners who will be using this data is Manchester-based software solutions provider, [Sparta Digital](#). Vijay Natarajan, Sparta Digital's marketing director, said his company is an innovative SME and CityVerve gives the opportunity to work with Ordnance Survey and utilise their APIs and services to build an interactive personalised digital wayfinding and navigation experience within the city that is consistent with the physical signage.

Part of this effort will be to promote walking and cycling within the city, while promoting local events and businesses. Sparta Digital will be working with Transport for Greater Manchester and Ordnance Survey to create a new head-up way-finding experience for the city, which will be enabled by Augmented Reality and proximity sensors installed around the city.

Redefining 'smart'

CityVerve is a GBP10m Department for Culture, Media and Sport funded [project](#) that aims to redefine 'smart' in the context of a living, working city, by using technology to meet the complex needs of its people. Led by Manchester City Council, the consortium of 21 organisations is creating a real-life blueprint for Smart Cities worldwide.

Miranda Sharp, OS head of Smart Cities Practice, said through the Public Sector Mapping Agreement, national and regional government use geospatial data and intelligence each day to improve transport, healthcare, energy and other services. Daily at our London-based Geovation Hub we see how up-to-date geospatial data, when combined with new technologies, has a major role in shaping the whole Smart City, Internet of Things (IoT) landscape and the huge potential this has to deliver new and better services.

Now Manchester is set to become a live arena for in-field innovation trials that demonstrate the capability of Smart Cities. This is a very exciting time for OS. OS is providing data that their partners can use to plan, build and deliver a smarter more connected Manchester, and the successes born out of this project can hopefully be applied to other areas of the UK and around the globe, Sharp concluded.