

OGC Launches Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure Project



The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) has announced a new OGC Interoperability Program project called the [Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure Standards and Communication Pilot](#) ('Arctic SDI Pilot'). The Arctic SDI Pilot is sponsored by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Natural Resources Canada. The goal is to demonstrate to Arctic stakeholders the diversity, richness and value of a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) based on web services and standardised exchange formats in helping address critical issues impacting the Arctic. Stakeholders include national and pan-Arctic science and monitoring organisations as well as decision-makers engaged in Arctic research, socio-economic policy and environmental management. The organisations participating in the Arctic SDI Pilot will document and publicise best practices that can

support a rich network of web-accessible data and service resources for the Arctic.

Phase 1

The pilot has two phases. Phase 1, an OGC Interoperability Program [Concept Development study](#), began in December 2015. In Phase 1, project planners are building an inventory of currently available Arctic geospatial data layers and Web services and defining the Arctic SDI architecture. This work will be supported by partners engaged in industry, research, and numerous jurisdictions. A Request for Information will be published in January 2016 to elicit further ideas, experiences, and projects in industry, research institutions and public administration to make maximal use of the ArcticSDI and to develop it further.

The Arctic SDI Pilot Phase 1 will also provide direct input into OGC's major [Testbed 12](#) Interoperability Program initiative. USGS has indicated that sponsor funding will be made available for Testbed 12 to test and further develop components identified in the Arctic SDI pilot. Through this collaboration, Arctic stakeholders and the Arctic SDI will leverage and benefit from the leading edge interoperability research, development and outreach that is ongoing in the OGC's series of major testbeds.

Phase 2

All findings from Phase 1 will serve as input for Phase 2, which will be an OGC Interoperability Program [Pilot Project](#). OGC pilot projects apply and test OGC Standards in operational applications using Standards Based Commercial Off-The-Shelf (SCOTS) products that implement OGC Standards. Pilot projects provide an operational implementation so that users and technology developers can collaborate and learn how to better address their requirements using standards-based architectures. To articulate the value of interoperability via standards, technology provider participants will implement the recommended Arctic SDI architecture in support of Arctic policy scenarios. A video will be produced to engage policymakers on the benefits of integrating diverse data utilising Arctic SDI standards and information management best practices.

About the OGC

The OGC is an international consortium of more than 515 companies, government agencies, research organisations, and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available geospatial standards. OGC Standards support interoperable solutions that geo-enable the web, wireless and location-based services, and mainstream IT. OGC Standards empower technology developers to make geospatial information and services accessible and useful with any application that needs to be geospatially enabled. Visit the OGC website at www.opengeospatial.org.