

UK Mapping Chiefs Unite to Discuss Future of Mapping



For what is thought to be the first time ever, the heads of the five British Mapping and Charting agencies will come together to discuss the future of mapping in front of an audience of cartographic professionals and enthusiasts. This keynote presentation – “probably the most important conference session held in the UK, this year, on the future of mapping” – acts as a headline for the British Cartographic Society’s 50th Annual Symposium.

Part of a year-long celebration of mapmaking the theme of the anniversary Symposium is ‘Today, Tomorrow and Beyond’ reflecting the Society’s forward looking vision for the future of cartography, and the event is being held at the historic Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire from 3-6 September 2013.

In their 50th Anniversary year the event returns to Leicestershire as this was where the first Symposium was first held back in 1964. Peter Jones MBE, president of the British Cartographic Society said it is a huge honour to welcome senior executives from the five British Mapping and Charting agencies to discuss how their organisations have changed over the past fifty years and highlight what they see as the key elements of the future of mapping. This is the centrepiece of the Anniversary Symposium and emphasises how important maps are today in our rapidly changing and increasingly digital society, he added.

Vanessa Lawrence, CB, director general and chief executive of the Ordnance Survey joins Paul Hancock, director of the Defence Geographic Centre, John Wilkinson, chief executive Land and Property Services, Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff, CBE, chief executive of United Kingdom Hydrographic Office and professor John Ludden, executive director of the British Geological Survey for a session titled ‘The Future for the UK World Leaders in Mapping’.

The BCS Anniversary Symposium will follow the successful format of events developed over the past fifty years including formal presentations, hands on workshops and lively debates. The event kicks off with a number of Special Interest Group meetings, including the Map Curators, GIS and Design groups, followed by the biannual Helen Wallis Memorial Lecture. Nick Millea, Map Librarian at the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford will present ‘Today, tomorrow and beyond: can the past project cartography into the future?’ Other sessions during the three day event will include ‘Mapping technologies for tomorrow’, ‘Cartography and Geospatial Intelligence’ and ‘Mapping for the challenges of tomorrow’ with contributions from the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation, Glasgow School of Art and the British Antarctic Survey.

The 2013 BCS Annual Symposium is kindly sponsored by the Society’s corporate members Cadcorp, ESRI (UK), Harper Collins, Leica Geosystems, Newgrove, Ordnance Survey, Star-Apic, The GeoInformation Group and Victoria Litho and is organised on behalf of the Society by Training4GIS.

To find out more about this and other events in the 50th Anniversary Calendar follow the society on: twitter @bcsweb, facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bcsweb> or visit the webpage www.cartography.org.uk