

The Social, Technical, Environmental and Economic Benefits and Opportunities of Accessing and Sharing Geodetic Data

Robert Sarib (Australia) and Graeme Blick (New Zealand)

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SUMMARY

The geodetic measurements observed over 2000 years ago, by the famous Greek mathematician and astronomer Eratosthenes, established the spheroidal shape and size of Earth. Since then geodesy has grown into the science of observing and understanding Earth's time-varying shape, gravity field, and rotation. Modern geodesy targets the study of processes as diverse as deformation of Earth's surface, redistribution of mass within and on the surface of the solid Earth, and changes in sea level. It provides the spatial framework that underpins positioning, navigation and timing, to better understand the world we live in, thus:

- a) contributing to hazard mitigation;
- b) facilitating better decision making;
- c) enabling spatial data interoperability;
- d) allowing for safer navigation by air, land and sea; and
- e) enabling more sustainable management and development of earth resources.

However to realise these benefits geodetic data should be shared and made available with minimal restrictions. Exchanging geodetic data should also consider international data sharing principles, so that as far as practicable the data is:-

- a) complete and

comprehensive;

b) timely, useable and accessible;

c) interoperable

d) machine readable and operable;

e) non-discriminatory;

f) non-proprietary; and

g) available under an open licence or agreement

This paper discusses the argument for sharing geodetic data, the benefits that flow from accessing this data, and the need for a geodetic data sharing policy and strategy.

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