

## The International Approach of SDI in Northrhine-Westfalia

If you are looking to the press you will get a lot of reports on disasters around the world. More and more hurricanes, tornados, storms, floods and earthquakes happen. The best you can do is to document all of these facts to get suited disaster management programs. However rapidly changing conditions in society and environment require deep knowledge of environmental facts. The Surveying and Mapping Agency of Northrhine-Westfalia (NRW) documents today's situation for the planning of tomorrow. There are a lot of geodata in the public as well as in the private sector. Unfortunately these data can't be used easily.

NRW, for political reasons, now opens its geodata treasury by two main activities, the *Geobasis*- and the *Infrastructure-Project*. The first project will bring together all data which are with the state and the communities. The second project is developing the infrastructure linking all data physically not only in the public but also in the private sector. Besides we are doing a *Geodata-Market-Study* to activate it and providing a *Satellite-Positioning-Service*. A further important part is the creation of the *Terra-Map-Server* providing digital orthophotos.

On global level there is a strong partnership between the State of North-Carolina and NRW to move forward the objective of achieving a reliable *Global-Spatial-Data-Infrastructure*.

Now geoinformation is a political issue. From our point of view there is a must now to be active internationally. So we have to coordinate geoinformation activities "top-down" and the other way around because geodata are the roots for clever decisions in planning and decision making ... and they can save human life as well as a lot of money.

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