

## **CeGi – living Public Private Partnership for running Spatial Data Infrastructures**

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SDI initiatives are presently underway in many European countries, their basic intention being to stimulate the market for geoinformation. A prime example is to be found in Germany and where, since Autumn 1999, several GI vendors and research bodies have been collaborating with the Ministry of the Interior and government of the state of North Rhine Westphalia (NRW) to establish a common and open Geospatial Data Infrastructure (GDI NRW).

CeGi Center for Geoinformation was established in order to promote, direct, guide and regulate both the production and dissemination of spatial information as relevant to societal needs, not only within the state but also across the border. CeGi is a private limited company (GmbH) and follows public-private-partnership regulations. Its main task is to provide management and coordination service for the Initiative GDI NRW. Other important business segments are: coordination of projects, consulting, communication and marketing services, trendscouting and qualification.

Although CeGi is located in North Rhine-Westphalia, it is actively engaged in national and international tasks, public relations and marketing efforts. CeGi meets the complex requirements concerning strategic and technical matters through its shareholders, the supervisory board and the board of experts. The shareholder structure of the company includes: the state of NRW, as the main shareholder, leading enterprises of GIS-Software industry, medium-sized providers and solution offices. The company was founded in April 2001 and is now playing a significant role on the German market. The CeGi's business development activities have resulted in several projects in the following fields: 3D-models, security, tourism, disaster management and cross-border projects. This shows that the GIMarket has accepted the business approach of the company.

As economy perspectives will particularly grow by the development of an efficient communication- and coordination platform for geoinformation applications in economy (i.e. industry, media, traffic and logistics, health care), science and education, public sector and society, CeGi does actively involve these parties. CeGi is positioned as currently unique central and interdisciplinary Competence-Centre for Geoinformation, nevertheless CeGi is placed in addition to already existing organisations and institutions and is actively cooperating with these institutions.

CeGi's unique philosophy (identity, mission, and goals) and its tasks provide a unique selling proposition (USP) and strengthen the character of a neutral institution. CeGi as a platform builds the communication interface for all participants of the market and actively takes part itself as developer and platform provider. These ongoing activities promise to encourage market development on a regional, national and even more far-reaching basis, especially considering the growing power of SDIs.

The paper will give a review about the first years of operation of the company with success factors, experiences and selected projects to be discussed.

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