



# Press Release

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*Identifying, articulating, and championing the interests of the evolving integrated spatial technologies industry*

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## **STIA Announces the ComCARE Alliance's Sponsorship of SPATIAL-TECH 2004**

### ***The Involvement of the Communications for Coordinated Assistance and Response to Emergencies Alliance (ComCARE) Underscores the Symposium's Focus On Integrated Technologies for Better Emergency Response Capabilities***

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 16, 2004 – The Spatial Technologies Industry Association (STIA) is pleased to announce that the Communications for Coordinated Assistance and Response to Emergencies Alliance (ComCARE) is a Cooperating Sponsor of STIA's SPATIAL-TECH 2004 national policy symposium and exhibition.

The theme of SPATIAL-TECH 2004, which is STIA's annual event to identify, articulate, and champion the interests of the evolving integrated spatial technologies industry, is geospatially enabling the homeland security enterprise. The goal is to foster a productive dialogue and exchange of ideas among senior government officials, corporate executives, and thought leaders who are key decision makers in the advancement of geospatial technologies for homeland security purposes at all levels of government and the private sector.

At least nine senior policy makers from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are featured on the agenda, representing each of the department's directorates. This broad-based participation of DHS leadership is anticipated to be the largest representation of the agency at any homeland security conference this year for those interested in geospatial technologies and related capabilities. Also participating are ranking members of the Congressional committees that oversee the nation's security interests and top homeland security officials from other federal agencies. It will be held at the Walt Disney Swan & Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Florida from September 26 to 29, 2004.

STIA Vice President for Policy and Partnerships Greg Karmazin said that ComCARE's participation, along with that of other emergency response organizations, will enable the symposium to transcend focusing purely on geospatial technologies to a dialog about creating a stronger homeland security defense and emergency response system by integrating all of the technologies available.

"We're not just talking about smarter maps," Karmazin said. "We're talking about three-dimensional models that pinpoint in real time the location of key assets and infrastructure, such as first responders at the scene of an emergency, or underground utility lines that could help or hinder rescue efforts, and communicate that information to all personnel on the scene regardless of the equipment they are utilizing."

STIA established the Cooperating Sponsor program to enable leading public interest groups, non-profit entities, academic institutions, and other stakeholder organizations to officially participate in the symposium while assisting the Corporate Sponsors to design and implement the program for the event. Each Cooperating Sponsor is provided with a seat on the Program Advisory Committee that is overseeing the development of policy issues and business topics that will be highlighted and addressed during the symposium.

“ComCARE is so pleased to be a part of this important event,” said Judith Woodhall, Managing Director of the ComCARE Alliance. “By facilitating dialog between the individuals on the front lines of emergency response with those involved in the research, development and production of geospatially enabled tools, SPATIAL-TECH 2004 serves an important role in the mission to introduce 21<sup>st</sup> Century technologies to the often antiquated communications infrastructure of emergency agencies.”

SPATIAL-TECH 2004 builds on the success of the widely acclaimed GEO-INTEL 2003 symposium that was hosted by STIA last year in New Orleans. The goal of the event is to advance the geospatial community by helping to facilitate consensus on challenging public policy issues, providing excellent business development opportunities and raising national media awareness about this field.

It is expected that SPATIAL-TECH 2004 will feature ten plenary sessions and six keynote addresses that will include the participation of more than 40 speakers who are senior level leaders from government, industry, academia, think tanks, and stakeholder interests. Highlights of confirmed and invited speakers include:

- Florida Governor Jeb Bush (confirmation pending).
- U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (confirmation pending), Member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, and Readiness and Management Support. Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Congressman Curt Weldon, Vice Chair of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, Member of the U.S. House Select Committee on Homeland Security, and Co-chair of the U.S. House Homeland Security Caucus.
- Congressman Norman Dicks, Member of the U.S. House Select Committee on Homeland Security, Member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, and Co-chair of the U.S. House Homeland Security Caucus.
- Congressman Adam Putnam, Chairman of U.S. House Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census.
- The Honorable Dr. Charles McQueary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary for Science and Technology.
- Steven Cooper, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Chief Information Officer, Management Directorate
- The Honorable Pete Verga, Department of Defense Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense.
- The Honorable Emily Stover DeRocco, U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary of Labor Employment & Training Administration.

- John Lueders, Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton.
- Jack Pellicci, B. Gen. U.S. Army (Ret.), Group Vice President, Business Development and Partners, Oracle Corporation.
- R. Halsey Wise III, President and Chief Executive Officer, Intergraph Corporation.

"SPATIAL-TECH 2004 is a high-level conference intended to accelerate the growth of the industry while also benefiting the geospatial technologies user community," said Sue Kalweit, SPATIAL-TECH 2004 Program Advisory Committee Co-chair, and Booz Allen Hamilton Senior Associate. "Geospatial technologies are clearly a foundation for economic prosperity and homeland security and this symposium will help to build the consensus between government and industry that is essential for achieving mutually beneficial solutions,"

For more information on the symposium, programs, speakers and sponsorship opportunities, please visit the web site at <http://www.ntpsnow.com/spatialtech/sponsor.php>.

"STIA is gratified that the leading companies and organizations in the integrated spatial technologies industry are strongly backing SPATIAL-TECH 2004," said Matt Tate, SPATIAL-TECH 2004 Program Advisory Committee Co-chair, and Intergraph Vice President for Geospatial Intelligence Solutions. "The symposium is a very important forum for our industry to share ideas and insights with public sector leaders about how to strengthen the security of our nation."

### **About STIA**

Founded in 1996, the Spatial Technologies Industry Association (STIA) is a private industry trade association based in Washington, D.C. with a membership of more than 60 leading companies providing products and services involving geographic information system (GIS) software, remote sensing, photogrammetry, database software, spatial data, the Global Positioning System (GPS), information technology systems integration, World Wide Web, communications, networking, and other location-based technologies. STIA is dedicated to identifying, articulating, and championing the interests of the evolving integrated spatial technologies industry. For more information, view the STIA web site at <http://www.spatialtech.org>.

### **About the ComCARE Alliance**

The ComCARE alliance is a broad-based not-for-profit national coalition of more than 90 organizations representing nurses; physicians; emergency medical technicians; 9-1-1 directors; emergency managers; transportation officials; wireless, technology and transportation companies; public safety and health officials; law enforcement groups; automotive companies; consumer organizations; telematics suppliers; safety groups; and others. Its mission is to encourage the development and deployment of life-saving communications technologies to enhance the nation's emergency response capabilities. Its goal is to promote an integrated and coordinated approach to emergency communications and to support the development of a comprehensive 'end-to-end system' to link the public to emergency agencies and to link those agencies together. For more information, visit the ComCARE website at <http://www.comcare.org>.

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