



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 GITA Sponsorship of SPATIAL-TECH 2004

Geospatial Information & Technology Association is a Cooperating Sponsor of the Symposium

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 10, 2004 -- The Spatial Technologies Industry Association (STIA) is pleased to announce that the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) has agreed to be a Cooperating Sponsor of STIA's SPATIAL-TECH 2004 national policy symposium and exhibition. SPATIAL-TECH 2004, which is STIA's annual event to identify, articulate, and champion the interests of the evolving integrated spatial technologies industry, will be held at the Walt Disney Swan & Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Florida from September 26 to 29, 2004.

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.

"GITA greatly appreciates the opportunity to be a Cooperating Sponsor of SPATIAL-TECH 2004, as this symposium will serve as a valuable forum for all communities within the geospatial industry to continue to address the facts, ideas, and opinions about the policies, programs, and best practices to achieve this top priority mission for our nation." GITA Executive Director Robert M. Samborski said. "We at GITA believe that geospatial technologies are an essential component of the foundation for homeland security and take this as a serious responsibility on behalf of our government, utility, and private sector constituents."

The theme of SPATIAL-TECH 2004 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.

"SPATIAL-TECH 2004 will help to facilitate consensus on challenging public policy issues, provide excellent business development opportunities, raise national media awareness about this field, and generally advance the geospatial community," STIA President Fred Corle said. "This year's symposium will build on the success of the widely acclaimed GEO-INTEL 2003 symposium that was hosted last October by STIA in New Orleans to energize the homeland

security community in the manner that last year's event benefited the defense/intelligence community."

It is expected that SPATIAL-TECH 2004 will feature nine 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), Committee on Armed Services, subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, and Readiness and Management Support. Committee on the Budget. Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, subcommittees on Aviation; Communications; Competition, Foreign Commerce and Infrastructure; and Science, Technology and Space. Committee on Foreign Relations, subcommittees on African Affairs; and Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotic Affairs.
- 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.
- 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.
- Steven Cooper, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Chief Information Officer.
- 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.

The symposium's 50,000 square foot exhibit hall in the Swan & Dolphin Hotel will accommodate more than 100 booths. Registration for SPATIAL-TECH 2004 already is indicating a major turnout of both public- and private- sector attendees. It is anticipated that there will be about two dozen Corporate Sponsors of the symposium.

The Corporate Sponsor program for SPATIAL-TECH 2004 includes three categories -- Titanium (top level), Gold, and Silver. To date, Titanium Sponsors are Booz Allen Hamilton, Intergraph, and Oracle; Gold Sponsors are Autodesk and Lockheed Martin; and Silver Sponsors are BAE Systems, Compusult, EarthData, ESRI, Ionic Enterprises, Leica Geosystems, MapInfo, NavTEQ, ObjectFX, Questerra, Sanborn, Spectrum Mapping, Techni Graphic Systems, Inc., Topographic and Engineering Center, U.S. Geological Survey, and Vexcel.

"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 Corporate Sponsor program, view the web site for the symposium at <http://www.ntpshow.com/spatialtech/sponsor.php>.

"STIA is gratified that the leading companies 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 GITA

The mission of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) is to provide excellence in education and information exchange on the use and benefits of geospatial information and technology in business, utility, and government applications worldwide. For more information, view the GITA web site at <http://www.gita.org>.

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