



# Press Release

901 15<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 360, Washington, D.C. 20005

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

**Thursday, August 19, 2004**  
**Contact: Martha Harbin**

**Phone: (850) 385-9318**  
**E-mail: [harbinm@fleishman.com](mailto:harbinm@fleishman.com)**

## **National Association of Counties to Sponsor SPATIAL-TECH 2004**

*The Symposium is quickly becoming the most important homeland security conference this year for geospatial technologies and related capabilities*

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 19, 2004 – The Spatial Technologies Industry Association (STIA) is pleased to announce that the National Association of Counties (NACo) is a Cooperating Sponsor of SPATIAL-TECH 2004, a national policy symposium and exhibition.

This year's theme of SPATIAL-TECH 2004, 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. In addition, state and local government leaders as well as key stakeholder organizations are playing a significant role in the symposium. It will be held at the Walt Disney Swan & Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Florida from September 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004 (<http://www.ntpshow.com/spatialtech>).

STIA Vice President for Policy and Partnerships Greg Karmazin said NACo's participation, along with that of other local government and 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 management capability across the nation by integrating all of the technologies available while involving all levels of government and the private sector in a coordinated manner.

"County governments utilize GIS mapping extensively for many different functions from maintaining records about land information and coordinating traffic lights to critical infrastructure to land use planning and a wide range of decision support activities," Karmazin said. "We're seeking ways to integrate and coordinate all of that information so first responders and recovery crews can better serve the public in the event of a disaster, and can communicate and establish a common operating picture regardless of the particular equipment they are using."

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. In addition to NACo, Cooperating Sponsors include:

- The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
- The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)
- The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)
- The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA)
- ComCARE Alliance
- The Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC)
- The University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business GIS Lab

“NACo greatly appreciates the opportunity to be a Cooperating Sponsor of SPATIAL-TECH 2004,” NACo Executive Director Larry Naake said. “Geospatial technologies are helping county government to work more efficiently and effectively while improving decision-making for homeland security purposes and a wide variety of other core governmental functions.

“We are please that STIA has invited local government to be an active participant in this important symposium,” he continued. “We look forward to a meaningful exchange of ideas and information.”

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.ntpshow.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 National Association of Counties**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) was created in 1935 when county officials wanted to have a strong voice in the nation's capital. More than six decades later, NACo continues to ensure that the nation's 3,066 counties are heard and understood in the White House and the halls of Congress. NACo's membership totals more than 2,000 counties, representing over 80 percent of the nation's population.

NACo, the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States, continues to follow the traditions established by those early county officials. With its headquarters on Capitol Hill, NACo is a full-service organization that provides an extensive line of services including legislative, research, technical, and public affairs assistance, as well as enterprise services to its members. The association acts as a liaison with other levels of government, works to improve public understanding of counties, serves as a national advocate for counties and provides them with resources to help them find innovative methods to meet the challenges they face. NACo is involved in a number of special projects that deal with such issues as the environment, sustainable communities, volunteerism and intergenerational studies. For more information, visit the NACo website at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).

###