

ISDE Issues Request for Demonstration for 3D Geobrowsers Initiative

Baltimore, Maryland – May 1 – The International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) invites responses to a Request for Demonstrations (RFD) in support of the ISDE technology demonstration and functional user requirements documentation initiative called “Digital Earth 3D Geobrowser Initiative.”

Responses are due by June 15, 2003. The RFD is available for downloading at

www.ncgia.ucsb.edu/digitalearth/3DGeobrowser/

The purpose of this Request for Demonstration (RFD) is to solicit industry, government, and academia input regarding the technology areas related to 3 dimensional, globe-based, human-user-interface systems for the web. This initiative addresses the planning for streamlining data, information, and applications input to query, browse, and analysis systems, which utilize the Earth metaphor as the first level of interactive query and browse by non-technical and technical audiences. This initiative intends to study the areas for improving the effectiveness and limitations of current technologies and the existing architectures for interoperable and intelligent Web-based decision support, scientific, and educational information systems. Performance basics for the future of these systems are expressed in the RFD specifications. Applications to demonstrate should highlight the current capabilities and define the applications areas of primary focus for operational and prototype systems as mentioned in the RFD.

This Digital Earth RFD initiative examines the major characteristics for performance that relate to the 3D geobrowser client/server deployed configuration and user interface functional requirements. Each of these areas is defined in terms of performance needs from user perspectives as determined through a series of international workshops. These elements include:

- 3D Global Metaphor
- Realistic Base Layers
- Real-Time Display
- Additional Data Layers
- Discovery
- Publishing
- Urban 3D
- True 3D
- Time Series
- Credits Display
- Gazetteer
- View Description Language (VDL)
- Multi-Level HCI
- Conflation
- Access to Models

3D Geobrowsers will add a crucial capacity and functional dimension to the ongoing development of the Digital Earth Initiative, which builds upon the international standards and protocols for open systems architecture and global spatial data infrastructure. As the primary entry point for decision support and other science and education networks, the 3D Geobrowsers represent a common user-defined staging platform for universal access to the rapidly growing, globally distributed Digital Earth network. Deployment characteristics include:

- Client Application Integration

- 3D Rendering Software
- 3D Accelerator Hardware
- Client Hardware
- Caching-Media
- Internet Image Protocols
- Tessellation
- Internet Image Compression
- Preprocessed Imagery Server
- Geospatial Data Servers
- Data Type
- Catalog Access

Developers and innovators are encouraged to submit an application for the RFD by sending a one (1) page application to icrsed@direcway.com , subject "RFD Application" with the following information: Name and contact information; affiliation; system description; proposed application focus for demonstration; references or links for additional supporting information. If you have any technical questions for the RFD please contact Nick Faust (404-894-0021; nick.f Faust@gtri.gatech.edu) or George Percivall (301-286-4073; percivall@gst.com).

Selections will be made by 15th of June for the Best Set of 3D Geobrowser Technologies. After being notified, organizations with the best technologies will be given specific instructions on how to present their systems at the **Geobrowser Challenge in Washington, DC on 17 and 18 July 2003**. All logistical and registration information can be addressed to icrsed@direcway.com, or call 410-379-6639 and ask for Joyce.

The International Society for Digital Earth represents a growing global consortium of hundreds of organizations representing industry, academia, government and NGOs, as well as individual citizens dedicated to creating a future as envisioned in the Digital Earth speech by Al Gore. Interested persons should consider the 3rd International Symposium for Digital Earth, to be held 21-15 Sept. 2003 in Brno, Czech Republic for further involvement with this planetary movement;
<http://digitalearth03.geogr.muni.cz>

For more information about the Digital Earth activities in the United States, please contact:

Dr. Timothy W. Foresman

International Center for Remote Sensing Education

410-379-6639

foresman@direcway.com