Federal Geographic Data Committee
Executive Committee

Record of Decision: Imagery for the Nation

Description	The vision of Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) is that "the Nation will have a sustainable and flexible digital imagery program that meets the needs of local, state, regional, tribal and Federal agencies." The IFTN vision is predicated on Federal leadership to implement and manage the national program. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Executive Committee is sponsoring an IFTN Planning Team to develop an approach for Federal leadership and implementation of IFTN. The purpose of the FGDC IFTN Phase 1 project is to take the first phase of incremental steps towards developing an on-going partnership between Federal, state, local and tribal governments to acquire, archive and ensure public access to up-to-date imagery on a sustainable and reliable basis. The IFTN Planning Team, which was chartered in June, 2008, has developed a draft plan and received feedback from the Executive Committee on elements of that plan.
Issues for Discussion	The issues for consideration are to resolve the recommendations made by the Executive Committee to the draft plan and to reach consensus on the next steps required to complete the plan and begin its implementation. The decisions of the Executive Committee recorded in this document will be presented to the FGDC Steering Committee for final approval.
Recommendations	The IFTN Planning Team makes the following recommendations for FGDC Executive Committee concurrence and agreement to incorporate them into the final plan for IFTN: **General Program Assumptions** • IFTN is a national program conducted with Federal leadership in partnership with State, local, and tribal government. It is intended to leverage resources across all levels of government to address their basic business needs. • From the Federal perspective, the intent of IFTN is to address the needs of the entire Federal enterprise, including all agencies that acquire and/or consume imagery products. • IFTN data will be available in the public domain, though in some circumstances there may be exceptions. • Both aerial and satellite solutions will be considered to meet program requirements. • The IFTN program will build upon USDA's National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) and the USGS-NGA Urban Area Imagery Partnership (UAIP). • IFTN will be managed as a flexible program that adapts appropriately as requirements and technical solutions change.

Technical Program Design

- The IFTN Program will include two components: high and very high resolution.
- The high resolution component includes:
  - Leaf-on imagery
  - Imagery of generally not less than 1 meter resolution and buy-up options for half meter resolution
  - Comprehensive coverage of the conterminous U.S. on an annual cycle with Alaska and Hawaii on 3-5 year cycles
  - Full funding from the Federal government
  - Buy-up options as defined by the plan and providing for new options and flexibility as the program evolves over time. Buy-up options will be funded by the requesting party.
  - Management by FSA
- The very high resolution component includes:
  - Leaf-off imagery
  - Imagery of generally 1 foot and greater resolution
  - Federal funding provided for each state every three years
  - Funding amount determined by pro-rated square mileage and approximately equal to 50% of the cost to image the state
  - Intergovernmental statewide councils determine the area of coverage with consensus of the appropriate FGDC governing bodies
  - Buy-up options as defined by the plan and providing for new options and flexibility as the program evolves over time. Buy-up options will be funded by the requesting party.
  - Management by USGS
- Future changes in resolution and/or other characteristics of the two program components to take advantage of new technologies and meet evolving needs will be made through the IFTN governance process.

Priority Framework

- The overall goal of IFTN is to achieve a dynamic balance between ensuring national equity, providing a predictable source of funds in order to encourage long-term collaboration, streamlining investment processes, and acquiring imagery that addresses pressing national needs.
- The FGDC governance structure for IFTN will be used to oversee priority-setting. The Technical Plan Work Group is developing a priority-based framework for the IFTN to support an acquisition strategy and implementation. This priority framework will be coordinated across the Federal, State and Local communities to ensure understanding and provide opportunities for constructive comments.

	• IFTN implementation will establish performance metrics to be reviewed on a regular basis. In addition, the IFTN priority framework will be reviewed regularly (and adjusted when necessary) to ensure that the most pressing current and emerging imagery needs are being addressed. **Governance** • The FGDC governance structure will be the foundation for IFTN governance. The governance structure will utilize the FGDC Executive Committee, the NDOP, a Program Management Office, agency program offices, and statewide geospatial coordination councils. The governance model will address architectural design issues, requirements processes, development of a business model for cost and program delivery. Additional details on the governance structure are included in the IFTN Plan. • The FGDC, through the FGDC Executive Committee, will provide policy-level guidance and coordination for IFTN; develop IFTN funding strategies; monitor IFTN implementation; and provide a mechanism for stakeholder input, as needed, through the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and other means. • The National Digital Orthophotography Program (NDOP), re-chartered as an FGDC subcommittee, will provide operational-level coordination of IFTN activities. NDOP will focus on coordination and management issues related to Federal imagery programs. Federal agencies not currently in NDOP will be encouraged to participate to ensure they have a voice in the successful implementation of IFTN. • A virtual, interagency Program Management Office (PMO) will provide project management support to implement the tasks and responsibilities of IFTN. The PMO will be staffed by key agencies to deal with overarching IFTN development and implementation responsibilities, and will provide coordination, communication, and performance management support to the NDOP and the ExCom. While full implementation of the PMO approach will be based upon funding for the IFTN initiative, partner agencies may implement components of the governance strategy on an interim basis to facilitate IFTN development and implementation. • The Farm Services Agency (FSA), as administrator of The National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), will manage and provide contracting services for the high-resolution, leaf-on component of IFTN. • The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), through the National Geospatial Program's Orthoimagery program, will manage and provide contracting services for the very high-resolution, leaf-off component of the IFTN. USGS will also provide a mechanism to facilitate partnerships through the NSDI Liaison network. • Statewide geospatial coordination councils, or specific state agencies designated by the councils, will coordinate statewide stakeholder

	communities to identify and fund buy-up options. Each council will be notified each year about the conditions and costs for partnership opportunities. They will have the option to develop a business plan in a specified format to address their level of participation. **Funding** • An organizational home or "Managing Partner" for IFTN will be identified for FY2010. • An initial virtual, interagency PMO will be jointly funded beginning in FY2010. The IFTN managing partner will fund a lead position for the PMO for FY2010. The FGDC Executive Committee will identify additional staff resources for FY 2010 operations in anticipation of dedicated funding in 2011. • The PMO, under policy guidance from the FGDC Executive Committee, will develop formal mechanisms for long-term funding commitments between agencies. • FGDC agencies will identify existing funding being used in their agencies for image acquisition, and as appropriate, will align funding with IFTN Plan objectives. • The FGDC Executive Committee will coordinate the development of a FY2011 IFTN budget initiative to include two coordinated budget requests from USDA and DOI. • FY2011 appropriation language will be drafted to create specific line items in USDA and DOI for IFTN in order to both preserve current funding levels and to increase funding to meet full requirements of IFTN. • The cost of the PMO will be included in the FY2011 request. • USDA and DOI will establish IFTN working capital funds to accommodate the potential need to carry-forward IFTN funds and re-capitalize infrastructure. • Federal funds will not be used for IFTN image acquisition activities that involve government competition with the private sector. **Contracting** • Through an industry survey and request for information to the private sector the IFTN Planning Team concludes without reservation that the industry has the capacity with current resources to acquire imagery in support of a program of the size and scope of IFTN is available. • Based on an examination of existing Federal geospatial contracting activities, adequate expertise to lead and manage the acquisition of imagery in support of a program of the size and scope of IFTN is available. • All IFTN large business prime contractors should be encouraged to utilize small businesses and shall be required to submit small business subcontracting plans when applicable. • It is the decision of the Federal Contracting Officers to determine the

	appropriate approach for each IFTN contract. Both Best Value and Quality-Based Selection (QBS) procurement procedures may be used in the acquisition of quality imagery products for IFTN. • Sealed bidding (low bid) should not be used to acquire imagery products and services. Evaluation criteria based on technical merit should be the primary basis for source selection for IFTN. • A critical aspect of success in all cases is the involvement of a technical expert in the development of specifications and task orders to be used in IFTN imagery procurement. • An integrated contract approach should be considered, to maximize airborne and satellite image acquisitions and processing capacities for IFTN. • The contracting strategies outlined in this record of decision apply to the IFTN program and are not intended to affect Federal acquisitions outside of the scope of the IFTN program, which may include event-driven collections related to homeland security and supporting safe navigation (nautical and aeronautical). **Data Hosting and Archiving** • IFTN Hosting and Archiving will be based on existing infrastructure with the very high resolution component hosted by USGS EROS and the high resolution component hosted by USDA Aerial Photography Field Office. • High-level requirements for IFTN Hosting and Archiving include public access at no charge and 24/7 availability. • A common portal to all data regardless of data location will be provided. • The data portal will be discoverable within Geospatial One Stop and data.gov. • Copies of IFTN datasets will be made available to NARA for long-term archiving. **Program Innovations** The following innovations have been discussed within the ExCom and will be explored after the Phase 1 plan is completed: • An integrated contracting approach or joint program office • A contracting approach that will engage private industry, both airborne and satellite firms, to creatively address the requirements of IFTN • A process to 1) gather specific, authoritative Federal imagery requirements and expenditures, 2) assess the requirements in terms of a cyclical program, and 3) prioritize the requirements relative to available funding levels.

Federal Geographic Data Committee
Executive Committee
Record of Decision: Imagery for the Nation

Decision: ☑ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Conditional Approval

Conditions:

Signature (Acting) Chair: Karen Siderelis — Date: 9/2/09
Department of the Interior

Signature (Acting) Vice Chair: Michael Howell — Date: 9/2/09
Office of Management and Budget

For more information contact: Vicki Lukas, IFTN Project Coordinator, 703-648-4646, vlukas@usgs.gov.