



IMAGERY FOR THE NATION

FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE
IMAGERY FOR THE NATION - PHASE 1 PROJECT

THE VISION

The nation will have a sustainable and flexible digital imagery program that meets the needs of local, state, regional, tribal and Federal agencies.

Aerial and satellite imagery has countless applications – from agriculture to civil engineering, from fighting crime to fighting wildfire – at all levels of government.

Intergovernmental partnerships to acquire imagery have clear advantages: lower costs, reduced duplication of effort, greater standardization, and more data available to a broad spectrum of government, private, and commercial users.

To improve the coordinated acquisition of imagery and optimize public investment in these data, the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative was designed by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), a state-based group, and adopted by the National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP), a federal imagery coordination body. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has acknowledged the need for a coordinated national imagery program and has initiated a project to define the Federal enterprise role in IFTN. Under Federal guidelines established in OMB Circular A-16, Appendix E, imagery is a part of the “Digital Ortho Imagery” theme, for which theme the Department of the Interior (DOI) U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the responsible Federal agency.

PROJECT DESIGN

The FGDC Phase 1 Project is designed to:

Define Federal imagery requirements – consistent, comprehensive documentation of Federal imagery requirements is being gathered to validate or revise the proposed specifications and cycle times proposed in the IFTN vision; includes Federal requirements for Alaska, Hawaii and territories.

Document Federal imagery expenditures – the project seeks to provide a clearer understanding of how and where imagery is being acquired across the Federal government in order to maximize efficiency of acquisitions.

Improve Federal imagery acquisition within existing resources and capabilities – the project is not seeking new funding, instead it is defining efficiencies and an enterprise approach to leverage investments across agencies.

Explore IFTN implementation – as part of the project, a plan will be developed for meeting a majority of Federal, state and local imagery requirements. The plan will include technical specifications, contracting approaches, data hosting and archiving architecture, partnership strategies and practices, a communication plan, guidance and direction for Federal agencies, and a funding strategy. The plan will be presented to the FGDC Steering Committee for review and as a decision point for further action.

Institutionalize imagery funding – the project will explore how Federal agencies can move from the “tin

cup” approach of project-based funding to institutionalize reliable funding at the executive level, as a national geospatial data acquisition effort.

Model a process for Federal enterprise geospatial data acquisition efforts – IFTN is a mature initiative that is being used to test geospatial coordination at the Federal enterprise level and create a process applicable to other initiatives (national lidar/elevation, cadastral, transportation, etc.).

The FGDC Phase 1 Project is working towards two outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: Rescope existing Federal programs to move towards IFTN goals:

- The USDA National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) is the foundation of the 1-meter program for IFTN. NAIP is being rescope by USDA and NDOP to reduce its cycle time from 5 to 3 years to achieve 1 meter national coverage. The project is seeking to move from project-based funding for NAIP to institutionalizing prescribed Federal annual contributions at the executive level over 3 years in order to complete national coverage.
- The USGS-National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) Urban Area Imagery Partnership (UAIP) is the foundation of the high-resolution (1’ or better) program for IFTN. The project is seeking to broaden the requirements and planning process to allow for greater coordination and to potentially increase leveraging of funds and the amount of coverage of imagery data that are acquired.

OUTCOME 2: Develop a plan for implementing IFTN

- The plan will define and document Federal imagery requirements and expenditures to determine if the current IFTN vision and specifications meet Federal enterprise needs or if they should be revised.
- A plan will be developed for implementing IFTN across the Federal enterprise in partnership with state and local government, as scoped through the requirements process.

- The IFTN Plan will address Alaska and Hawaii.

The FGDC Executive Committee has agreed in concept to the following assumptions, upon which the Work Groups will perform their tasks:

- The general assumption is that IFTN data will be available in the public domain, though in some circumstances there may be exceptions.
- IFTN is a Federal program conducted in partnership with State and local government that 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 Federal enterprise, including all agencies that acquire and/or consume imagery products. Requirements documentation will include all FGDC member-agency needs as defined by available agency documentation, survey response and Work Group findings.
- Work Groups will consider both aerial and satellite solutions to meet Federal requirements as determined in the IFTN Phase 1 project.
- The Phase 1 Project will build upon USDA’s National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) and the USGS-NGA Urban Area Imagery Partnership (UAIP) to implement IFTN. Depending on the documented requirements, the 1 meter program will be managed by USDA, and high resolution by USGS. New costs to these agencies associated with acquiring and managing IFTN, hosting and archiving IFTN data, etc. must be factored into the overall IFTN plan via the input of the Work Groups.
- Outcome 1 of the Phase 1 Project is intended to accomplish a few near-term steps to move the existing programs towards IFTN goals while a more comprehensive plan for IFTN is developed as part of Outcome 2.
- An IFTN governance body that is approved by the FGDC Steering Committee will be defined in the Phase 1 Project. The governance body will serve as a Federal forum for coordination with state agencies/plans, perform annual program reviews, ensure requirements are being met, and adjust the program as needed. The form and specific functions of the governing

body will be determined by the Work Groups as part of the IFTN plan.

The FGDC Phase 1 Project, including both outcomes, is targeted to be completed by the end of the calendar year, 2008.

PROJECT OVERSIGHT

The FGDC Chair, James E. Cason, serves as the Executive Project Leader accountable for executive management of the project and for achieving project outcomes. The FGDC Steering and Executive Committees provide overall oversight and guidance to the IFTN project. Executive Champions have been designated to provide leadership oversight to the project work groups, and to be accountable for the overall success of their activities. Work Group chairs have been named to lead the day-to-day activities related to the IFTN project. The following is a list of Work Groups, Champions, and Chairs that are actively engaged in the IFTN project:

WORK GROUP	EXECUTIVE CHAMPION	CHAIR(S)
Technical Plan	Chuck Christopherson, USDA	Shirley Hall, USDA Jim Mauck, USGS
Funding Strategy	Jim Cason, DOI	Chris Baglin, DOI
Contracting Strategy	Steve Wallach, NGA	Kari Craun, USGS Geoff Gabbott, USDA
Hosting and Archiving Strategy	Joe Klimavicz, DOC	Doug Binnie, USGS Kent Williams, USDA
Partnership Strategy	Molly O'Neill, EPA	Vicki Lukas, USGS
Guidance and Direction	Dominic Sale, OMB	John Mahoney, FGDC
Communication Strategy	Chuck Gay, NASA	Pat Phillips, FGDC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The NSGIC website www.nsgic.org

The FGDC website www.fgdc.gov

Project Manager: Vicki Lukas vlukas@usgs.gov

(703) 648-4646

FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE
590 NATIONAL CENTER
RESTON, VIRGINIA 20192

EMAIL: FGDC@FDGC.GOV

FAX: 703-648-5755

[HTTP://WWW.FGDC.GOV](http://WWW.FGDC.GOV)