Overview & Highlights of:

The DHS Licensed Data Forum on April 16, 2015

Hosted by the DHS Geospatial Management Office (GMO)

Facilitated by the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)

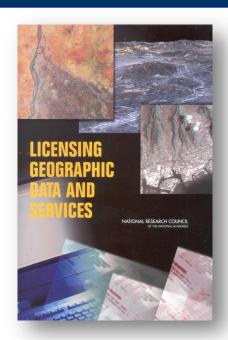# Background & Context for this Forum

Background:

- Previous Major Discussion on this Topic:
  - Conducted in 2004 by the National Academies NRC

- Much has changed since then:
  - Data as a Service, Analytics as a Service, etc.
  - Robust Nature of Private Sector Data Providers
  - Proliferation of 'Open Data' & CC Licensing Models

DHS Context:

- DHS is a consumer and aggregator of geospatial information. Primarily to support a wide range of mission partners to mitigate or respond to events

- Ensuring scalable information sharing of high quality, timely, and accurate data between these HLS mission partners is key.

- Knowing why, when, and how to best leverage licensed data is important

Goals & Format for this Forum

Goals

- Convene public and private stakeholders in a neutral setting to have a 'state of the state' dialogue regarding licensed geospatial data.

- Identify barriers, best practices, and even clarify misconceptions amongst Government and private sector regarding licensing data.

- Collaboratively discuss and develop recommended solutions or next steps to address any barriers/gaps.

Format

- AM Panel of Speakers Aimed at "State of the State"

- AM Facilitated Group Discussion Amongst Forum Attendees
  - Focused around role of licensed geospatial data and identifying barriers

- PM Panel of Speakers Aimed at "New/Emerging Licensing Models"

- PM Facilitated Group Discussion Amongst Forum Attendees
  - Focused around identifying solutions and recommendations

Speakers and Attendee Summary Statistics

List of Speakers:

- David Alexander, DHS GMO
- Mark Reichardt, OGC
- Kevin Pomfret, Centre for Spatial Law & Policy
- Mike Smith, NGA
- Bill Burgess, NSGIC
- James Pardue, TomTom
- Tim Trainor, U.S. Census Bureau
- Meredith Romley, OMB OFPP
- Jerry Johnston, DOI
- Mikel Maron, Presidential Innovation Fellow
- Chris Tucker, Yale House Ventures
- Karen Dacres, PlanetIQ
- Fred Poole, Digital Map Products
- Nancy Hucke, CoreLogic
- Hayden Howard, Compass Data

Attendees:

110 Registered Attendees *(Capped)*
80 Physical Attendees *(Approx.)*

Almost a **50%/50% Split Between Government & Private Sector Attendees**

Logistical Note:
All attendees were given assigned seating to help stimulate a diversity of ideas and ensure a diversity of view points were well represented at each table

Consistent Themes

- Much more agreement than not around the increased value for licensed geospatial data to serve Federal and State level mission objectives

- Less RFP's and more API's?

- Guidance is likely needed to help determine when to build, buy, or integrate data

- More education and upfront understanding for those in the acquisition community regarding how to best acquire licensed geospatial data (i.e. applications of appropriate and not overly burdensome FAR clauses)

- 'Open Data' – Many definitions for it but also many applications

- Implications of bundled data licensing with software packages and/or derived work products originating from licensed data

- 'Time Out' Provisions for releasing data that may have a reduced or 'zero' market value once enough time has passed

- Communicating the mission need is key to private sector engagement

Key Findings

- There exists a gap in confidence in government procurement and that the users of commercial data there exists an accountability issue. Lack of confidence that the user will actually honor the license agreement correctly and be held accountable to its proliferation.

- It is a ubiquitous assumption on commercial side that data will be used improperly.
  - Some of the commercial solutions have agreements that are untenable
  - Some of the data providers will fall out of the competition due to this.

- This Forum succeeded in establishing a collective spirit rather than government versus private.

- Government usually shares property use with the provider, but cannot create an agreement that encompasses 10 commandments. Communication will break down so trust is the key.

High Level Recommendations that Emerged:

- Enhanced communication before and during acquisition
  - Need more useful channels for upfront, pre-acquisition information exchange and high quality private sector industry input before RFI's
  - Stronger dialogues and alternatives to "Industry Days" or pre-proposal conferences associated with pending procurement activities.

- Need to provide clearer guidance on when to license geospatial data

- Developing sample/template licensing agreements

- Training in geospatial requirements to educate and inform the Federal acquisition community around the considerations for licensing data.

- Training in basic acquisition law/FAR to educate and inform the Federal geospatial community to facilitate cooperation with procurement officials.

- Become engaged in OMB's new Category Management initiative.

General Feedback from Attendees

Next Steps

- MAPPS & DHS GMO Contractor Support Staff are finalizing report to DHS regarding findings.

- Planned briefing of findings to the DHS Geospatial Working Group (GWG) and an FGDC HIFLD Subcommittee Tiger Team on Data Licensing.

- At the direction of the DHS GMO, begin to craft future follow-on event(s).
  - May likely be seeking broader sponsorship (i.e. FGDC)
  - Propose going deeper on focused topics/issues