

Kerala's first Active Web GIS service launched

India: The Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Kerala, announced the launch of the State's first Active Web GIS service in public domain using free and open source software technology. The main objective of Active Web GIS, is to make dynamic geographical information available in a simplified, open Web interface. In an Active Web GIS, the geographic objects or attributes are powered by dynamic database systems that represent the changes in the real world. It allows the visualisation of dynamic data in a natural geographic setting. The site helps the visitor access State-wide weather information and forecast updated every three hours. It provides thematic maps of Kerala and advanced fly-through of 3D topography.

CESC to launch GIS for power distribution in Karnataka

India: Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company (CESC) will be launching a GIS in its power distribution network soon, announced K.P. Pandey, Chairman, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). He said that GIS will be made available in the district sometime during April. It would enable analysis of the entire 11 KV network coming under CESC and also focus in short circuit analysis, voltage regulation, asset management, analysis on load flow and fault tolerance. GIS would be introduced in other districts gradually, he explained.

Lapan helps govt fight forest and land fires

Indonesia: The Environment Ministry will be dealing with forest and land

fires in association with the National Aviation and Space Agency (Lapan) under a MoU signed in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan recently.

"Under the cooperation, the two sides will be locating hot spots, which have been the main cause of forest and land fires in Indonesia," said Environment Minister Rachmat Witoelar.

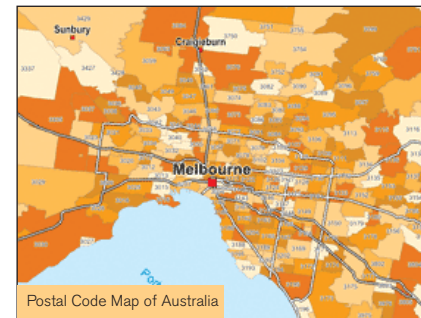
Geokosmos opens office in India

Russia: Geokosmos International, a topographical survey company, has set up a liaison office in Delhi, India to primarily engage in general business development within the aerial photography and mapping industry. "India is a potential market and we are looking forward to building relations with business partners and clients there," said Geokosmos vice-president, International Business Development, Peter Goellner.



New Postal Code maps for Australia and New Zealand

Australia: GfK GeoMarketing has updated its digital maps of Australia and New



Zealand. Digital postal code maps form the basis of sales territory and expansion planning in modern businesses.

For New Zealand where a comprehensive postal code reform will go into effect on July 1, 2008, after which the previously used postal codes will no longer apply. GfK GeoMarketing has already digitized these new postal code districts, ensuring continued accuracy with regard to companies' customer locations, sales territory planning and regional revenue forecasts.

The Australian map set has also been significantly revised. The postal code map with more than 2,600 postal code districts has been newly digitized for enhanced accuracy.

Monitoring Asia-Pacific Disasters from Space

Australia: A space-based international Earth observation network to detect and monitor natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region has been formed with a substantial contribution from Australian science. Sentinel Asia, the network of information-delivery websites has its roots in the Australian bushfire tracking system, Sentinel Hotspots, which was developed in 2002 by CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and the Australian Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation.

The concept of Sentinel Asia is to provide online information from Earth observation satellites in 'near real-time' through a network of WebGIS services such as the Australian Sentinel Hotspots system.

Initially supported by the Japanese Government through the Japan Aerospace Agency (JAXA), Sentinel Asia aims to show the value of Earth observation data for disaster management in the region.