

Press Release

State of Minnesota Planning for Enterprise GIS for State Government

BOSTON – June 2008 – The Minnesota Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis (OGDA), Department of Administration, has kicked off a project to design an enterprise GIS for State government. The State conducted a competitive procurement and chose Applied Geographics (AppGeo®), of Boston to lead this effort. For this engagement, AppGeo will be supported by Minnesota firm, Rowekamp Associates.

The project is titled “Geographic Information Systems Functional Transformation” and is part of a larger, State government-wide Drive to Excellence reform initiative started by Governor Pawlenty that seeks to make broad improvements to the way Minnesota State government operates and delivers services. Currently, GIS is deployed by many separate agencies across State government. The project goal is to develop, recommend and implement an organizational and governance framework for coordinating GIS as an “enterprise” activity of State government and to identify, recommend and begin to implement enterprise solutions to technical aspects of State GIS services and functions.

The Drive to Excellence GIS project’s Executive Sponsor is Brad Moore, Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the project is being managed by OGDA. David Arbeit, OGDA Director and Project Leader, notes that “this initiative reflects the historic commitment to collaboration within Minnesota’s GIS community, but its greater significance is that the cabinet-level visibility that comes with Drive to Excellence status greatly enhances its likelihood of success.” In addition to PCA Commissioner Moore, State CIO Gopal Khanna and Department of Administration Commissioner Dana Badgerow have actively advocated for this project.

“Minnesota has a long and successful history with GIS technology, but as with many other states there is a need for the GIS program to adapt and evolve in light of new technology and new demands arising from increased geospatial awareness,” said Michael Terner, Executive Vice President of AppGeo and Principal in Charge of the project. “Minnesota has done its homework in getting to this juncture and with the designation as a Drive to Excellence initiative there is both increased urgency and visibility for this effort. We look forward to working with the State to ensure that this plan is well-designed and also implemented effectively.”

The project was initiated with a kick-off meeting attended by 85 GIS stakeholders in St. Paul on May 13th. The project will proceed during the summer with interviews with 20 State agencies as well as two workshops conducted with other GIS stakeholders. The project will be completed during the autumn in time for recommendations to be considered as part of the State’s budget process.

About Applied Geographics, Inc.

Applied Geographics, Inc. (AppGeo, www.appgeo.com) has been providing high quality GIS services and innovative solutions to government and private sector clients since 1991. AppGeo empowers its customers to put GIS to work through the intelligent use of geographic data and applications that improve work flows and business processes. AppGeo provides a full range of GIS consulting services: GIS strategic and implementation planning, data development, custom applications, training, cartography, implementation assistance and technical support. AppGeo services are available through a variety of state blanket contracts and nationwide through its GSA IT Schedule 70.

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