

GIS

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...joining the geography jigsaw



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INSPIREd rewarding SMEs



Above: Cameron Easton of GiStandards (left) presents Crispin Hoults, MD of LinkNode, with their award, which was won with their VentusAR application (left).

EVERY YEAR, the AGI recognises significant achievements of organisations and individuals across the UK in the development and use of geographic information and technology. For 2013, GiStandards* and smeSpire sponsored two of the awards presented by the AGI at a ceremony in December. Coincidentally these were both

September. Due to the very high winds on that day, one of the awards was presented later in Glasgow.

Mobile solution for VIA Glasgow based LinkNode won the smeSpire Award – presented for the first time this year – which is intended to raise the profile

smeSpire Scottish wins at AGI awards

A personal mobile solution for visual impact analysis and a linear GIS that stretched over 250 miles were amongst the winners at the recent 2013 AGI Awards.

won by small Scottish companies in the field of environmental information. The trophies were awarded at a ceremony held at the Royal Geographical Society in London, which was preceded by the AGM, a lunch and the delivery of award-winning presentations from the AGI conference that had been held in Nottingham in

of the European smeSpire project in the UK with all small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

LinkNode won with their VentusAR application: a personal, mobile solution for visual impact analysis (VIA) assessment. This is required for large-scale plans and development including proposals for wind farms and solar arrays. Photomontages are considered the best means of presenting VIA to the public and professionals but there have been major obstacles to widespread use of the technology. Limitations such as expense, set-up time, number of viewpoints and subjective positioning have challenged access to inclusive planning information.

By using mobile devices, LinkNode has improved portability, ease of use and functionality. Underpinned by the Gality platform, the application provides integrated 3D visualisation apps for dynamic real-world augmented reality.

Enabling ongoing savings The Innovation and Best Practice Award (Private Sector) is presented to a company that has pioneered new techniques or approaches that can be seen as “best practice”. Island GIS, a small company based in Edinburgh, won for their work with Scottish and Southern Energy on the Beaulieu Denny project. Island GIS enabled considerable ongoing savings by streamlining software, communications and resources for managing spatial assets at the planning, pre- and post construction phases of the project. This is the largest of its kind in the UK with more than 600 pylons

The smeSpire Project

SME
SPIRE



This project is funded by the European Union under the grant n. 296307

smeSpire's purpose is to encourage and enable the participation of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the mechanisms for harmonising and delivering environmental information, which is becoming more available as a result of the INSPIRE Directive (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community). The directive came into force in 2007 and, between then and 2019, aims to establish the infrastructure to support European environmental policies and any other policies or activities that may impact on the environment.

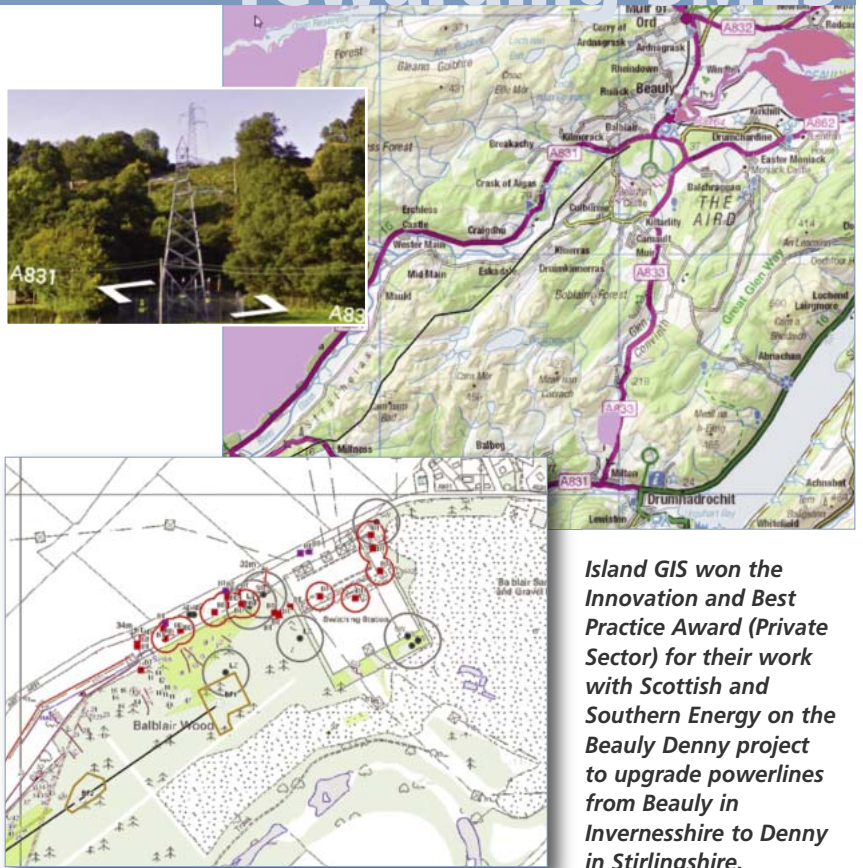
SMEs can help member states meet the requirements of the Directive, creating new market opportunities with increased potential for innovation and new jobs. The legally binding requirements for INSPIRE implementation create entry-points for crucial business opportunities, opening new or reinforcing existing technologies such as linked and/or open data, sensor web, cloud computing and many digital environmental applications.

INSPIREd rewarding SMEs

stretching over 250 miles from Beauly in Invernesshire to Denny in Stirlingshire. The web-based service contains multiple spatial data layers and attributed information on construction, infrastructure, ecology, archaeology and the necessary health and safety factors.

Exemplary GI Both of these awards are sponsored by GiStandards, a Scottish SME based in Hamilton, which pioneers engagement with Europe through participation in a wide range of projects funded by the European Commission such as smeSpire. **Martin Ford**, chief executive of GiStandards, says: "We are delighted that the AGI awards we have sponsored – one of them as a partner in smeSpire – have been won by Scottish companies demonstrating exemplary performance in the use of geographic information technology. Both Island GIS and LinkNode should be proud of their contribution to the analysis and communication of complex datasets associated with developments that need spatial data and that affect the environment."

** Based in Glasgow, GiStandards Ltd is a partner in the EU funded smeSpire project, which aims to encourage and enable the participation of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the implementation and exploitation of spatial information made available under the INSPIRE Directive.*



Island GIS won the Innovation and Best Practice Award (Private Sector) for their work with Scottish and Southern Energy on the Beauly Denny project to upgrade powerlines from Beauly in Invernesshire to Denny in Stirlingshire.

For more information, visit:



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A European Community of Geo-ICT SMEs



SME /
SPIRE

smeSpire is an EU funded project that aims to encourage and enable the participation of small and medium sized enterprises in the implementation and exploitation of spatial information being made available under the INSPIRE Directive.

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form
gaps
terms
beyond
open
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analysis
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including
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This project is funded by the European Union under the grant n. 296307

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You can read more about smeSpire and GiStandards Ltd, a partner in the project, in this issue of GIS Professional. Turn to page 14.