Environmental Data Thinkshop:

Opportunities for Small Businesses

The INSPIRE Directive has mandated the opening of many 'silos' of government held spatial datasets relating to the environment and is requiring that they become interoperable over the web. Already many basic central government datasets are available and the emphasis is now moving to 21 themes such as statistical units, buildings, soil, environmental monitoring units, energy and mineral resources. Many of these are collected by local government s or other public sector bodies with very constrained resources.

Small businesses can help to ensure that this data becomes available as required by helping with data collection, verification, management and transformation as well as implementing the services required for displaying and disseminating the data. There are also many opportunities to develop new applications using the 'Big Data' that is now becoming available. 'Mashing-up' datasets will provide completely new insights into our environment and how it is managed. Mobile apps will draw in a completely new audience and also enable crowd sourcing of ever more accurate and up to date information.

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are perfectly placed to exploit these opportunities and this Thinkshop will illuminate the issues around Why, What, Where, When and How to take advantage.

A "Thinkshop" is a facilitated open debate to engage experts as well as existing and potential stakeholders. Attendees will be invited to join the debate and help direct it.

Facilitated by: Cameron Easton, lead for the Scottish Government's Transposition and Implementation of INSPIRE and **Robin Waters**, GI Consultant, Editor of GIS Professional and member of the AGI INSPIRE Working Group.

**Royal Scots Club, 29-31 Abercromby Pl, Edinburgh EH3 6QE
23rd April 2014, 10.30 - 16.00**

FREE Registration *http://gistandards.eu/registration/event/* **FREE**

smeSpire – enabling and exploiting the spatial information from INSPIRE www.smespire.eu