



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada commits \$10.5 million in funding for Canada's GEOIDE Network.

December 17, 2008, Quebec City — The Networks of Centres of Excellence Program is continuing its commitment to the GEOIDE Network with \$10,511,000 in funding over three years. These funds will contribute to GEOIDE's continued support of innovative geomatics research and commercialization activities for the benefit of Canadians.

Geomatics is the discipline of gathering, storing, processing and delivering geographic information. Geomatics technologies have become part of everyday life. For instance, over 300 million people around the world use the Global Positioning System (GPS). Its uses include orienting research vessels that hunt for shipwrecks, locating mobile telephone users, and guiding ships, aircraft and pedestrians. The world market for geomatics is estimated to grow from 6% to 30% a year, depending on the sector of activity.

Since its launch in 1998, the GEOIDE Network has accomplished substantial advances in research and innovation, abroad and nationally. Successes include creating a strong geomatics research network across Canada, collaborating with 12 international geomatics networks around the world, and commercializing research funded by the Network. In addition, 545 students have completed graduate degrees while contributing to GEOIDE projects. This generation of graduates has taken up positions across the geomatics community in industry, government and academia, demonstrating a clear result to the cumulative investment. Under GEOIDE, these students were trained to place greater emphasis on interdisciplinary teamwork and to respond to community needs.

"The GEOIDE Network has proven itself as a means to enhance innovation and break down the barriers between sectors. We will continue to foster innovation that leads to social and economic benefits," says Dr. Nicholas Chrisman, Scientific Director. "This is an exciting time to contribute to the solution of pressing problems for Canada and the planet. Geomatics has taken centre stage in this location-based economy. I would like to thank everyone for their significant contribution to the review process that led to this funding."

Founded in 1989, the Networks of Centres of Excellence are partnerships between universities, industry, government and not-for-profit organizations. An integral element of *Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage*, the federal government's science and technology strategy, these nationwide, multidisciplinary and multi-sector partnerships connect excellent research with industrial know-how and strategic investment.

GEOIDE's mission is to consolidate and strengthen the domestic geomatics industry while making optimum use of Canada's research and development resources, and to create a sustainable networking structure that integrates all sectors of the Canadian geomatics community.

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