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Media Release

Government, industry co-operate for growth

Canberra, 11 August, 2006

The Australian Spatial Information Business Association announced today that it has achieved two important agreements with state and commonwealth agencies to improve tendering arrangements and relationships between the private sector and its government clients.

ASIBA has been working with agencies to better manage the growing demand for spatial information and to ensure that expensive investment in technology is maximised rather than duplicated.

'The Queensland Spatial Information Council and ASIBA have agreed on a joint Position Statement on Imagery and Mapping Acquisition in Queensland,' said ASIBA Chairman, Michael Easton.

'This is a good example of how government and the private sector can work together to better meet each other's needs as contractor and client,' said Easton.

According to ASIBA Chief Executive Officer, David Hocking, ASIBA has also been working closely with the Australian government spatial information agency, Geoscience Australia, to ensure that industry better understands the Australian Government's mapping and imagery needs and that government correspondingly understands the industry's capacity and business skills.

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Hocking said that ASIBA recently held an Imagery Acquisition and Topographic Mapping Forum to review past contractual arrangements with Geoscience Australia, who also facilitate topographic mapping on behalf of the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation.

'Close cooperation between government agencies and the private sector of the spatial information industry is essential for Australia to continue to be regarded as a leader in this field of endeavour,' said Hocking

Ian O'Donnell, Geoscience Australia's Group Leader for the National Mapping and Information Group, commented that 'the ASIBA Forum was most valuable in assisting Geoscience Australia to better understand the capacity and the capability of the Australian industry and its ability to contribute to Commonwealth programs'.

'The Forum, which explored opportunities for improvement from both the client's and the consultant's perspective and was only open to ASIBA members, was well attended by ASIBA member companies and Geoscience Australia representatives, all of whom hailed the Forum and its outcomes as a valuable service to members,' he said.

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