

**Press Release: February 20, 2015**

**COGO Announces the Release of the Report Card on the US National Spatial Data Infrastructure**

**Des Plaines, IL (May 1, 2013)**

The Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) announces the release of its **Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)** that depicts the condition and performance of the nation’s geospatial “infrastructure” which includes surveyed, mapped and remotely-sensed information.

The report card was developed by an expert panel chaired by The Honorable James E. Geringer, former Governor of Wyoming, with Dr. David J. Cowen, John J. Moeller, Dr. John D. Bossler, Susan Carson Lambert, The Honorable Tom D. Rust, and The Honorable Robert T. Welch. COGO initiated this effort in 2009 by securing the commitment of the expert panel members who worked on a volunteer basis to produce this report.

As stated in the report’s foreword, COGO “recognizes the individual contributions of all Federal, state, regional, tribal, and local government agencies that have worked in concert with the private and academic sectors to develop the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) as it exists today. This work has spanned entire careers, and COGO applauds the sincerity of their efforts and the value of their contributions.”

ASPRS is a member organization of COGO, with an overall representation of approximately 170,000 individual geospatial practitioners. Together, the coalition is delivering this assessment to help Congress, the Administration, Federal agency executives, and others understand the importance of geospatial data to the nation, as well as shortcomings of the NSDI.

Michael Vanhook, COGO Chairman, stated “Federal agencies have worked for many years to improve their geospatial programs, but the COGO member organizations believe that the national data sets and delivery systems (the NSDI) generally need improvement. It is time for the Federal government to more effectively engage the entire stakeholder community to ensure that America has the highest quality geospatial infrastructure. Doing so will allow us to more efficiently and effectively deal with society’s needs, and to reduce duplication of effort.”

The Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) may be found here – [www.cogo.pro/uploads/COGO-Report\_Card\_on\_NSDI.pdf](http://www.cogo.pro/uploads/COGO-Report_Card_on_NSDI.pdf).

This release was adapted from the original sent out by Mike Vanhook, GISP, COGO Chair, February 9, 2015.

**About GISCI**

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) provides the geographic information systems (GIS) community with a complete certification program. GISCI offers participants from the first years on the job until retirement a positive method of developing value for professionals and employers in the GIS profession.

The organization is now developing an exam component for the GISP Certification to be implemented in early 2015.

The COGO member organizations represent approximately 170,000 professionals who develop and use spatial information about the nation’s physical infrastructure. The Coalition is delivering this assessment to help Congress, the Administration, Federal agency executives, and others understand the importance of geospatial data to the nation, as well as shortcomings of the NSDI. The member organizations want to engage Congress and Federal agencies to discuss and identify common sense improvements that will lead to a more robust NSDI.

You can find the Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) at <http://cogo.pro/>

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