

ESRI's International Spatial Data Infrastructure Startup Grant Program

Introduction

Geographic information systems (GIS) are an important technology for managing and using spatial information at the local, regional, national, and global levels. This technology is helping many societies manage natural and man-made resources in a collaborative environment. It facilitates good management of infrastructure development, sustainable economic planning, emergency response, environmental conservation, public health programs, and a variety of other challenges facing society in the 21st century.

Key to the application of GIS is a strong program for development of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). Such a program provides an important framework of standards, policies, data, procedures, and technology to support the effective coordination and dissemination of geographic information.

For the past decade, a network of key national mapping organizations around the world have discussed a vision of constructing a kind of Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) that could involve the development and open sharing of a kind of global basemap at 1:250,000 scale. It has been suggested that such an effort would provide the world-at-large with a basemap for global, regional, and national problem solving and science. It was also suggested that a digital map of this type could over time be supported by each country in a loosely coupled, collaborative, and multiparticipant organization.

Technology for Implementing GSDI

For the past several years, ESRI has been creating a new GIS technology specially designed to support an Internet-based GIS network. This technology implements the vision of distributed data and application services. This technology, together with a web-based portal is known as the Geography Network, realizes the vision of implementing an open and collaborative global library of digital geographic information. Appendix I is a paper that outlines the ESRI technology for realizing the GSDI vision. ESRI feels strongly that a geographic or spatial infrastructure is vital to sustainable economic development and is pleased to support this International Spatial Data Infrastructure Startup Grant Program for assisting countries in implementing the vision of a GSDI at the 1:250,000 scale.

This program is a \$5,000,000 (U.S.) commitment to support the building of National and Global Spatial Data Infrastructures and the sharing of geodata in the promotion of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure movement.

What is the ESRI SDI grant program?

To help make the GSDI a reality, ESRI will donate the following to support the technical backbone of National Spatial Data Infrastructures:

- One copy of the ArcGIS™ system, which includes the following:
 - One copy of ArcInfo™ 8.1
 - Complete GIS for data creation, update, query, mapping, and analysis
 - One copy of ArcSDE™ 8.1 (ArcSDE server and CPU bundle)
 - Gateway for storing, managing, and sharing multiuser geodatabase stored in a database management system (DBMS)
 - One copy of ArcIMS® (ArcIMS Standard Edition and 1 CPU)
 - For publishing geodata on the Internet
- First year free maintenance and technical support, which includes the following:
 - E-mail, fax, and telephone support from ESRI Redlands, California, headquarters.
 - Any software updates or patches on software donated during the first year.
 - After the first year, maintenance will be paid to a local ESRI distributor for continued technical support. Where there is no local ESRI office or distributor, technical support will continue with paid maintenance via ESRI's office in Redlands, California.
- One free Virtual Campus training for one student for the following classes:
 - *Learning ArcGIS 1 (for ArcView® 8, ArcEditor™ 8, and ArcInfo 8)*
 - *Learning ArcGIS 2: Presenting Information (for ArcView 8, ArcEditor 8, and ArcInfo 8)*
 - *Introduction to ArcInfo using ArcMap, ArcCatalog, and ArcToolbox*
 - *Exploring Geography Network*
 - *Introduction to Visual Basic for ESRI Software*
- \$5,000 (U.S.) training credit for instructor-led training in Redlands, California. (Student is responsible for travel, meals, and housing costs.)
- One free pass for the annual ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, California, for the first year of the program. (Student is responsible for travel, meals, and housing costs. Thereafter, conference attendance is by fee or free with paid software maintenance.)
- ESRI will publish metadata of participants' released data on the Geography Network.

- Grantees will agree to publish and make available on the Web their national 1:250,000-scale map and data using ArcIMS on the Geography Network. The publishing of other appropriate data sets is encouraged. ESRI's technology is open and supports interoperability standards, thereby facilitating open access to publishing data sets.¹
- Where needed, ESRI is willing to temporarily host 1:250,000 national data sets on their Geography Network server in Redlands without cost. This support will be determined on a case-by-case basis until hardware/networking infrastructure is in place within countries themselves.

Who is eligible for ESRI Spatial Data Infrastructure Startup Grant?

The ministry, agency, national mapping program, or collaborative national government program (outside the United States, Canada, and the European Union) that is leading the effort to build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure within a country should apply. Please consult with your colleagues to make one unified application. Grants are made to institutions, not to individuals.

One grant per country will be offered.

When will the ESRI Spatial Data Infrastructure Startup Grant start?

The SDI grant program will be launched at the 2001 Global Spatial Data Infrastructure meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, on May 23, 2001. Applications may be received until December 31, 2001.

How does an institution apply for the ESRI Spatial Data Infrastructure Grant?

An online (e-mail and Web-based) application will be available shortly at www.esri.com/sdigrant or sdigrant@esri.com. Until then, questions can be sent to jrebstock@esri.com (Jeanne Rebstock) or cruiz@esri.com (Claudia Ruiz).

You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Name of the institution
- Contact/Coordinator name
- Telephone
- E-mail
- Address
- Fax

¹ ESRI is an active supporter of standards including active participation in the OpenGIS Consortium. OGC's specifications for Web Mapping Server are implemented in ArcIMS and the Geography Network.

- Web site (if available)
- One-page description of SDI plans and progress to date
- Existing computer hardware and networking information

As ESRI is committed to supporting the development of GIS capacity within the local context, the ESRI International Distributor Network will be trusted partners in the implementation and support of the ESRI Spatial Data Infrastructure Startup Grant recipients. Grantees will be asked to sign an ESRI software license agreement.

The value of each grant is \$50,000 (U.S.).

Who do I contact for more information?

Your local ESRI distributor (to find your local ESRI office, visit www.esri.com) or Jeanne Rebstock at 715-835-6041 or at jrebstock@esri.com or Claudia Ruiz at 909-793-2853 x 1945 or at cruiz@esri.com.