

# GeoCom 2025 hosted by AGI Scotland

*Thursday 27 February 2025*



THE ASSOCIATION  
FOR **GEOGRAPHIC**  
INFORMATION



Conference Centre, Doubletree by Hilton, Edinburgh

# GeoCom 2025 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

Thursday 27 February 2025

## Programme

08:45 - 09:30	<b>Registration and Networking</b>
	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Bruce Gittings</b> AGI Scotland Chair and <b>Peter ter Haar</b> , AGI Co-Chair
	<b>Jen Hampton</b> , Office for National Statistics Indexing to Integrate: Unlocking opportunities for smarter decision-making
	<b>Daniel Rex</b> , Informed Solutions Harnessing AI and Geospatial Intelligence for Smarter Asset Management
	<b>Amanda Chan and Chandramauli Tyagi</b> , Ramboll PlaceTech Innovation Lab: Data innovation and improved insights to deliver sustainable places
	<b>Our Gold Sponsors:</b> Ardent Management, City Science, Esri UK, Idox, Informed Solutions, Landclan and Verisk
10:50 - 11:20	<b>Refreshments and Networking</b>
	<b>Allan Williams</b> , NCAP An Introduction to the National Collection of Aerial Photography
	<b>Jethro Lennox</b> , Collins Bartholomew Mapping International Boundaries
	<b>Paul Everett</b> , British Geological Survey Releasing geological intelligence to society
12:20 - 13:30	<b>Lunch and Networking</b>
12:20 - 13:30	<i>Main Auditorium - Lunchtime Networking Session - AGI Early Careers, AGI Director Bob Chell</i>
	<b>Siew Fong Chen</b> , Global Maritime Consultancy 3D Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA)
	<b>Gala Camacho Ferrari</b> , Diagonalworks Large area analytics for inclusive urbanism
	<b>Gareth Young</b> , Land & Property Services Shaping a smarter public sector in Northern Ireland using geospatial identifiers
14:30 - 15:00	<b>Refreshments and Networking</b>
	<b>Keynote: Rebekah Jones</b> , US CNCS Ethics in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Better, Smarter World
	<b>David Ferguson</b> , ScotlandIS It's all about the data
	<b>Panel Discussion: Getting Real with AI - What does AI mean for geospatial</b>  David Ferguson, ScotlandIS, Dr Phil Bartie, Heriot-Watt University, Shona Nicol, Scottish Government and Carolyne Thomson, Scottish Government
17:00 - Late	<b>Close and GeoDrinks</b>

# 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

## Thursday 27 February 2025

### Speakers

**KEYNOTE: Rebekah Jones, US CNCS**

Rebekah Jones is an award-winning and internationally celebrated scientist turned whistleblower. Rebekah studied climate change and disasters with a dual major in journalism at Syracuse University for her undergraduate degree, as well as her Master of Science degree at Louisiana State University and her doctoral studies at Florida State University.

Rebekah's work tracking COVID-19 in Florida earned national praise, and her advocacy for data access and transparency won her Forbes' Technology Person of the Year and a nomination for Nature's John Maddox Prize. Rebekah ran for Congress in 2022, and now heads MesoscaleNews.com, an independent science newsletter covering international crises and whistleblowing.

Today, Rebekah works for the US CNCS developing climate community impacts programs. You can find her on Substack and all the other social media apps, where she's amassed nearly one million followers.

**Gala Camacho Ferrari, diagonalWorks**

Gala Camacho is a technical strategist and urban data scientist: a mathematician (discrete mathematics and operations research) and an experienced programmer.

She has a background in education and technology. Her career has focused on building geospatial products and working across city infrastructure consulting projects.

Her extensive experience dealing with technology and analytics in city systems, includes automated fibre optic network design, sewage pipe maintenance optimisation, transport advisory analytics, through to neighbourhood analytics and inclusive city making.

At diagonalWorks Gala leads urban analytics projects and geospatial strategic work, with a focus on feminist urbanism, and using analytics to explore and break down urban and social inequalities.

**Jethro Lennox, Collins Bartholomew**

Cartographic Director, Collins. Manages the cartographic team at Collins Bartholomew, which is responsible for maintaining the geographical databases and publishing maps and atlases for Collins. The list includes The Times World Atlases, Collins maps and atlases, A-Z maps and atlases, and the Collins Nicholson Waterways Guides.

# GeoCom 2025

## 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

### Thursday 27 February 2025

## Speakers



### **Siew Fong Chen, Global Maritime Consultancy Ltd**

Siew Fong Chen is a geospatial professional who brings a unique systems-thinking approach to offshore wind development, drawn from her 14 years at the intersection of marine geosciences and environmental consultancy. As Senior Geospatial Analyst at Global Maritime's Geosciences department, Siew Fong leverages geospatial technologies to support offshore wind projects globally throughout their lifecycle, from early-phase site selection to detailed front-end engineering.

Drawing on her background in Ecosystem Services mapping, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and data-led policy studies, Siew Fong brings a holistic approach and excels at identifying cross cutting issues in early-stage offshore wind planning and development, optimizing site selection and reducing project risks for numerous offshore wind developments worldwide.



### **Paul Everett, British Geological Survey**

Paul is a geoscientist with 15 years at the British Geological Survey, working in a variety of roles. His work involves the development and translation of BGS data into products and applications that enable stakeholders to improve decision making.



### **Dr Allan Williams**

Dr Allan Williams has led the growth and development of NCAP since 2001. Working with the Ministry of Defence on the declassification of millions of aerial photographs, he has been responsible for greatly increasing accessibility and use of the collection. Through an entrepreneurial business approach - and despite the six-fold growth of the collection to more than 30 million images - operational and development costs are funded through commercial enterprise. The use of historical aerial imagery by the European bomb disposal industry has been of strategic importance in achieving this.



### **Jen Hampton**

Jen Hampton is Head of Geospatial Analysis and Innovation at the Office for National Statistics. With a background in data integration and social sciences, she now heads a team of geospatial analysts in the development and production of geospatial methodologies and products, to support the work of colleagues across the ONS, government, academia and public sector.

# 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

## Thursday 27 February 2025

### Speakers



**Amanda Chan, Ramboll**

Amanda is the Digital Urbanism Lead for Ramboll's Regenerative Cities team, working with cities and clients to deliver integrated solutions to tackle major urban challenges including planning for rapid population growth, sustainable development and climate change. Amanda has seven years of environmental consultancy experience, with backgrounds in Urban Strategies & Design, Environmental Impact Assessment, GIS and 3D visualisation.



**Chandramauli Tyagi, Ramboll**

Chandramauli is a GIS Consultant for Ramboll's Digitalisation Team, working across a range of disciplines including Ecology, Biodiversity, Environmental Impact Assessments, Energy, and Transport. With diverse experience in web maps/field maps for data collection, Experience/StoryMaps/Dashboards for digital reports, data management and automation, Chandramauli excels at creating immersive, custom web applications. These applications incorporate 3D visualisations and other advanced GIS functionalities, benefiting project outcomes and enhancing stakeholder interactions.



**David Ferguson**

David is focussed on maximising the social benefits and economic opportunities within the digital tech sector through the development and adoption of emerging technologies and data-driven solutions. With experience spanning multiple sectors, including defence, space, cyber, manufacturing, and FMCG, David brings a comprehensive perspective on the importance of cross-sector collaboration to maximize economic potential.

He recognises technology as a crucial enabler for growth through data innovation and understands the significance of cybersecurity in safeguarding the digital environment. David is passionate about leveraging opportunities for the Scottish technology sector in addressing the diverse challenges of the 21st century on both the domestic and international stages.



**Daniel Rex**

Daniel Rex is a Lead Consultant at Informed Solutions, with over 12 years of experience in geospatial-enabled digital transformation. He has played a key role in delivering international, award-winning projects, working with both public and private sector clients across transport and environmental domains. His expertise lies in leveraging geospatial technologies to drive value through innovation and sustainability in complex environments. He holds an MSc in Geographic Information Science (GIS) from the University of Leicester.

# GeoCom 2025 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

Thursday 27 February 2025


## Speakers

### **Gareth Young, Land & Property Services**




Gareth is currently Head of Geospatial Service Architecture, Address Management & Data Governance at Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI). With a career spanning 15 years, he has extensive expertise in the field of geographical information and systems previously holding roles providing spatial advice on large public sector infrastructure projects, managing webservice and application development and leading on geospatial data innovation and integration. He is a Chartered Geographer and a member of the AGI Northern Ireland Board.

### **Dr Phil Bartie**



Phil worked in GIS roles in the Channel Islands and New Zealand before moving into academia. He taught GIS at the University of Stirling for five years before joining the Computer Science department at Heriot-Watt University. His research focuses on data science, information systems, and the intersection of spatial data models, mobile computing, and human-computer interaction. His work explores improving human-machine interactions in urban spaces, leveraging spatial analytics for autonomous systems, and developing tools for open-source intelligence, including applications of large language models and computer vision.

### **Carolyn Thomson**



With over 20 years of experience working in the Scottish public sector my role as senior AI Policy Officer in the Scottish Government allows me to bring together my passions for IT, innovation and the delivery of high quality public services.

As a member of the Scottish AI Alliance, a partnership between the Scottish Government and the Data Lab within Edinburgh University, I currently have responsibility for delivering the Scottish AI Register, a tool designed to ensure that Scottish public sector AI use is open and transparent for all our citizens.

When not building my robot army I am usually crocheting or watching the famous Heart of Midlothian Football Club.

### **Shona Nicol**



Shona Nicol is Head of the Technical Data Policy Team, covering data standards, data maturity, open data and data innovation, within the Digital Directorate, Scottish Government. Her work focuses on improving the use of data standards and increasing data maturity in the Scottish public sector, she is also an advocate for the transformational role that data can play in increasing transparency, empowering communities, transforming products and services, fuelling innovation, and improving outcomes.

Her previous role was head of the Geographical Information Science and Analysis Team (GI-SAT) in the Scottish Government. The team provide a centre of excellence for geospatial data in the public sector, unlocking its value using geospatial and data science tools and techniques. Prior to joining GI-SAT, Shona studied at the University of Edinburgh obtaining an MSc in Geographical Information Science.

GeoCom 2025

# 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

Thursday 27 February 2025

## Gold Sponsors

**Ardent** Ardent is the UK's leading provider of land, consent management, and stakeholder engagement services to support major infrastructure and regeneration projects from concept to delivery.

We are Project Managers, Chartered Surveyors, Engagement specialists, GIS, AI, Software Development specialists, and Land Referencers, based in London, Birmingham, Warrington, Leeds, Glasgow, and Dublin, supporting projects throughout the UK and Ireland.

Established in 1992, we are a high-growth business, that has doubled in size to c. 200 people during the past 3 years, and our client portfolio includes some of the biggest players across our four core sectors of transport, renewables, utilities, and regeneration.

We are passionate about delivering life-improving change for communities and future generations and we are proud to play a key role in facilitating and delivering the UK and Ireland's net zero agenda, improving connectivity, enabling the repurposing of high streets and town centres, and delivering new homes for the people who need them most.

We are problem-solvers, can-doers, and solution-drivers working collaboratively with our clients to provide proactive and strategic advice to identify and mitigate risks, deliver efficiencies, and, ultimately, achieve deliverable consents and build projects that positively impact people's lives and the world that we live in.



GIS has long been a critical tool for Local Authorities, enabling them to manage and analyse spatial data for various purposes, from urban planning to emergency response. However, the traditional centralised only approach to GIS has faced significant challenges that are driving the need for change. While centralised only GIS systems have served Local Authorities well in the past, they are often too complex and resource-intensive to meet the growing demands of modern organisations.

These systems require dedicated teams, continuous upskilling, and significant investments, creating bottlenecks and limiting the ability to deliver value across the entire organisation.

Cadence combines cutting-edge GIS technology with a unique and intuitive user experience to deliver value from data faster. Cadence helps you quickly find the data you need, visualise it effortlessly and share your analysis and insights. We believe distributing the ability to utilise spatial data across your organisation is what is needed moving forward.

Cadence has self-service capabilities and distributed workflows, which modernises traditional GIS approaches, equipping all your teams with the data, visualisations and analytics they need for success. Benefit from specialist, ready-to-go DataPacks and tools, designed specifically to serve key applications within your industry.

Built for collaboration, Cadence's cloud-native technology enables quick and easy publication to the web, allowing you to craft compelling data narratives and bring your insights to life. Choose from a series of publishing options including Stories, DataBanks or APIs and Dashboards. As a trusted core data engine for cities and regions, Cadence empowers you to unlock the full potential of your data, driving informed decision-making to deliver positive change. Use Cadence to democratise data to empower people and teams to quickly move from insight to impact. With data you can trust, rest-assured that better decisions start here.

# GeoCom 2025 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

Thursday 27 February 2025

## Gold Sponsors



Esri was founded on the vision that geographic thinking and digital mapping could help create a smarter world. To this day we remain passionately true to that vision, working closely with government organisations across the world, to help them sustainably improve the lives of citizens, realise the potential of their communities and protect and nurture the environment for future generations. Meanwhile, many of the world's major retailers, shippers, and manufacturers rely on Esri solutions to light the way to a smarter and more sustainable perspective on operations, vulnerabilities and supply chains. In Scotland we have a thriving community of customers across the public and private sector, that are at the forefront of creating smart solutions through innovating with our location intelligence technology.

Our customers shape a smarter world by making sense of complexity, modelling the world from a geographic perspective that recognises the importance of place in improving people's lives and growing successful businesses.

If you are interested in finding out more about our solutions for a smarter world, please visit [esriuk.com/location-intelligence](https://esriuk.com/location-intelligence) or e-mail [info@esriuk.com](mailto:info@esriuk.com).



Idox Geospatial is a leader in location insight. Finding value, solving problems, and helping businesses to understand more about risks and opportunities, every day.

Part of Idox plc, one of the UK's largest and most influential software companies, Idox Geospatial brings together a range of specialist geospatial companies and brands, all of which have a longstanding track-record within the geospatial field and are known for driving innovation and delivering trusted, valued services. Together, our insights can transform any organisation, enhance decision-making at the highest levels, and deliver true strategic advantage.

The world is changing, rapidly. As we're developing new datasets, techniques and technologies, we're extending our reach into new sectors and reaching deeper into existing supply chains. Our products and services provide access to transformative insights, effortless asset and project management, and much smarter ways of working. But we also have a reputation for taking on board the needs of people as well as the priorities of a business - creating geospatially-oriented solutions that can empower and enhance operations in the real world.

Our vision focuses on building more sustainable ways of working for the future, and because we're aware of the shifting business and regulatory landscape, you can be sure reliability, licensing, compliance, and compatibility are included as standard. Ultimately, there's so much more that organisations can achieve with great location insight.

From the software we build to the datasets we provide, via consultancy or through enterprise-class platform deployments - we're proud to be shaping organisational, commercial and strategic transformation in every sector.

**Together, we drive change.**



# 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

Thursday 27 February 2025

## Gold Sponsors



### Harnessing AI and Geospatial Technology to Reach "30 by 30"

"30 by 30" is a global target to protect at least 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030. NatureScot, as Scotland's Nature agency, is on the front-line of delivering the target in Scotland, with responsibility for safeguarding millions of hectares of land and sea, preserving sensitive areas and biodiversity.

As part of delivering this target, NatureScot set a CivTech Challenge, calling on industry to explore how innovation and technology could help better understand and manage protected areas. Informed was selected as NatureScot's innovation partner, and our experts in GIS, data science, and AI, collaborated with NatureScot's marine and terrestrial ecosystem experts to develop a revolutionary environmental asset monitoring and management solution based on InformedINSIGHT™ - an open standards-based data integration and analytics platform, which turns data science into real world decision support.



66% increase in land-based Protected Areas by 2030



Now rolled out nationally, the platform has provided transformational capabilities to the NatureScot team:

- It integrates and make sense of the ever-growing range of data available to NatureScot, including Earth Observation, citizen science, and new survey techniques such as eDNA, enabling NatureScot to combine different data sources to produce decision-ready information that can be embedded into monitoring workflows.
- It supports scientists in evaluating the condition of different areas, providing a shared view of status that underpins collaboration between staff and stakeholders to develop mitigation plans.
- It uses a flexible, secure cloud-native data lake architecture to unify and enable analysis of disparate data sources to categorise areas and form a whole-of-Scotland view of potential risk to support prioritisation.
- The platform's flexibility underpins an innovative new approach to protected area monitoring, focussed on understanding ecosystem health at multiple scales.

The innovation here presents incredible opportunities to other organisations that could benefit from ingestion and unification of rapidly emerging data sources to inform faster, more efficient decision-making around land, marine, and other environmental assets.

# 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

Thursday 27 February 2025

## Gold Sponsors

### LANDCLAN™ LANDCLAN WFS delivers platform agnostic location data

#### Problem set

Whether you are responsible for setting strategic policy or making decisions about land use and asset management you need clean data to work from. LANDCLAN observed a number of common challenges facing people working with location based data, particularly those who want to:

- Integrate organisational data with open and proprietary data sources.
- Work with location data in non-spatial platforms.
- Get authoritative Scottish local government data direct from source, validated and aligned across 34 bodies by the Improvement Service.
  - Planning Applications
  - Housing Allocations
  - Building Standards
  - Wind Turbine locations and heights
  - Biodiversity Baseline powered by AiDash

#### Common challenges resolved by LANDCLAN WFS

- Time taken to connect to multiple APIs and perform spatial joins or create relational links between datasets.
- Inconsistencies with structure and naming conventions and the fundamental challenge of human data entry.
- Reducing a property to an address point does not adequately capture all of the factors affecting the property or its occupiers.

#### Solution

LANDCLAN WFS in OGC and ESRI formats puts data on your desktop or into your database, taking away one of the biggest headaches for any GI project.

LANDCLAN uses AI to continuously update the joins between data sets, matching non-spatial data to address points with 99% match rates.

The data structure uses 4 related geometries of address, building, land parcel and post code to allow analysis of complex multi-use, multi-occupancy land and property.

Pricing is enterprise level and fixed cost, there are substantial discounts available for Academics, Not-for-profit, Housing Associations and Public Sector.

### Verisk™ Verisk is a leading UK data supplier, harnessing mapping and data analytics to provide land and property insights to industries, including insurance, emergency services, government, utilities, telecom network operators, finance, and real estate.

Our national database of detailed property characteristics and land-use delivers insight into property and land, providing you with the tools to gain detailed information about individual houses and buildings, analyse large areas, or understand the use and characteristics of a specific area of interest.

Reliable insight on property and land-use can streamline the decision-making process. For example, for companies assessing the value or risk associated with a building or delivering a service, having access to accurate geospatial data can enable them to identify business opportunities while understanding land use simplifies project and development planning.

Get in touch to discover how Land-Use and Property insights can improve your decision-making processes – improving efficiency and saving costs.

# GeoCom 2025 'Opportunities in Geospatial Intelligence: Shaping a Smarter World'

Thursday 27 February 2025

## Silver Sponsors



### Empower Your Business with Future-proof Geospatial Solutions



At Avineon | Tensing, we future-proof your geospatial data management with continuous support for evolving formats, services, and standards. Our GIS, FME, and data engineering specialists deliver scalable, innovative solutions. We transform geospatial data into a strategic advantage driving smarter decisions and measurable outcomes.

With over 30 years of expertise, we combine technical knowledge in geospatial systems with hands-on experience with data-driven solutions. Whether integrating complex datasets, developing pipelines for cloud and hybrid environments, or adopting cloud-native formats, we ensure your data management is ready for the future.

Our advanced approaches include no-code/low-code solutions to simplify data integration and visualisation, and Generative AI to optimise data cleanup and augmentation. These innovations streamline workflows and empower your team to work more effectively, keeping your organisation ahead in an ever-changing field.

Partner with Avineon | Tensing to unlock the full potential of your geospatial data.



Bluesky International is an aerial survey and geographic data company, producing and maintaining digital aerial photography and height data across Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. Bluesky also conducts bespoke surveys, including LiDAR, for industries such as financial services, utilities, telecoms, insurance, construction and environment.

As the UK Government's chosen supplier for aerial photography and height data through the APGB contract (Lot 1), Bluesky serves all public sector organisations including local authorities, emergency services, national parks and parishes.

Bluesky operates advanced aircraft and sensors, including Ultracam Eagle Mark 3s, Leica TerrainMapper 2, and Leica CityMapper 2s, enabling the collection of vertical and oblique imagery, and LiDAR data. Their innovative approach has led to unique products like the National Tree Map™, National Hedgerow Map™, and MetroVista™ 3D mesh models for digital twins and smart cities.

Bluesky has offices in the UK, US, Republic of Ireland, and production centres in India.



Geovation Scotland is an accelerator programme offering early-stage tech startups hands on support through a range of training, mentoring, data and funding to take their business to the next level.

Our aim is to make Scotland the best place for early-stage startups using location and/or property data to power their businesses.

Our bespoke accelerator programme offers technology entrepreneurs looking to accelerate the growth of their businesses a range of support – from finance, sales, pitching and marketing to data access, development support, up to £15k of funding and much more!