User Community for Geospatial Authorities
Terms of Reference v. 1.0
July 12, 2017

Purpose:

The User Community for Geospatial Authorities (UCG) exists to facilitate collaboration between key geospatial authority customers of Esri and Esri, to ensure Esri delivers the best GIS platform to meet the requirements of this UCG.

Goals:

Ability for the UCG to:

- Communicate new geospatial and geographic science technologies and capabilities we expect to need in the next 3-5 years and agree on a prioritized requirements list.
- Regularly hear from Esri on the planned roadmap for ArcGIS.
- Collaborate with Esri and one another on shared goals for providing excellent value to our common customers.

Participants:

The UCG will consist of staff from geospatial authority customers of Esri and Esri staff who will participate as a collaborative group. Each organization will designate a senior executive to represent them in the UCG. It is expected that each UCG organization will participate in at least one meeting or activity each year, and if not, it will be taken as an indication they are no longer interested.

Boundaries:

The UCG is not intended to replace the collaboration and meetings of the United Nations – Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), government agency associations (ex: EuroGeographics), or professional associations. On the contrary, the UCG is expected to offer pragmatic approaches to some of the resolutions of the UN-GGIM and other organizations.

Structure:

The UCG will consist of a Steering Group and Secretariat, and Working Groups as needed.

- Steering Group – will agree on capabilities required by the UCG and prioritize them for Esri in the following manner. A senior executive or manager, with technical experience with Esri technology, from each of the UCG participating organizations is expected to be an active participant in the Steering Group. By majority they would maintain a prioritized requirements list and send it in a request to Esri. This would define significant enhancements for major software releases (X.0) and minor enhancements to minor (X.x) releases. This will not replace the Esri technical support case system or ideas portal, but would supplement them as an indication of the importance to the UCG.
- Secretariat – Esri will provide Secretariat support for day-to-day management and coordination, and maintain communication.

- Working Groups will be established by the Steering Group for defined purposes and time frames.

Methods of Work:

The modality for carrying out work will be determined by the UCG Steering Group and is expected to include:

- The UCG Steering Group will meet at least twice a year, once a year around the Esri User Conference in San Diego, and once a year in Redlands. Addition meeting(s) can be arranged if needed. They will be organized by the Steering Group and the Secretariat.

Sharing of information:

Communication is expected to be shared openly within the UCG, but not outside the UCG. Internal communication will be initially through email, but a private website is expected to be created in the future.

Background:

On 26 June 2016, in San Diego, CA, USA, a group of geospatial authority customers of Esri discussed the need, vision and potential of a UCG. As a result of the meeting, a number of executives from these organizations stated their interest in forming and actively participating in a UCG. The first meeting was held on 15 February 2017 in Washington, DC, USA, and the Terms of Reference were agreed on in principle. A second meeting was held on 12 July 2017 and the Terms of Reference v. 1.0 were agreed on.