

2015 NYS Geospatial Applications Awards Competition Entry Form

Please use the below template to submit your entry for the **2105 NYS Geospatial Applications Awards Competition**. By entering the competition, you grant permission for the NYSGIS Association to publish and publicize your entry.

Required Information

Sponsoring Organization: Development Authority of the North Country

Stakeholder/Participant List (by Organization): Development Authority of the North Country, Fountains Spatial, Inc

Title: Internet Mapping Application (IMA)

Abstract: The Development Authority of the North Country's Internet Mapping Application (IMA) is a regional shared services model that provides local governments and the public with access to GIS data and resources through an efficient, easy to use, and low-cost web-based hosting solution.

Statement of the Problem: Local governments in the North Country, including Counties and Municipalities, often do not have the resources or staff to implement, manage, and maintain GIS software and data. The expense and time required is often a barrier to local governments utilizing GIS and reaping the benefits. While a few local governments in the North Country Region have implemented GIS, they were usually operating in a "closed" environment, unable to easily share their data with others who needed to access to it.

Response to the Problem: The Authority implemented GIS to support its internal operations in 2002. In 2011, the web-based Internet Mapping Application (IMA) was developed with Fountains Spatial to allow the Authority to offer GIS Services to municipalities who wanted to implement GIS, but could not afford to purchase software and maintain data on their own.

Results: The IMA is now a robust, regional GIS application that is available to local governments and the public. To date, 39 municipal customers have their GIS data hosted on the IMA, and one County has taken down their own map viewer to join in this regional resource. In 2015, the Authority and Fountains Spatial updated the IMA to make it compatible with mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets. The application continues to grow as more communities implement GIS with the intention of utilizing a hosted solution to avoid the

high costs of software and GIS staff, and avoid redundancy and inefficiency of GIS resources in the region.

Return on Investment/Cost-Benefit Analysis: Municipalities that implement GIS through a shared services model utilizing a hosted solution save money by avoiding the costs associated with purchasing GIS software and hiring staff to manage it. Instead of 39 local governments purchasing 39 packages of GIS software and hiring 39 GIS professionals, all participants can make use of a shared pool of GIS resources. As New York State is urging local governments to work together on shared services to make government services more efficient and affordable, it is prudent that municipal governments share GIS services. By joining in with a regional resource, everybody also benefits from the added data that becomes available.

Key Participants: (Name, Organization, Title)

Jim Wright, Executive Director, Development Authority of the North Country
Carrie Tuttle, Director of Engineering, Development Authority of North Country
Star Carter, GIS Analyst, Development Authority of the North Country
Christina Illingworth, GIS Technician, Development Authority of the North Country
Larry Spraker, President, Fountains Spatial, Inc
James Samek, GIS Developer, Fountains Spatial, Inc
Gary Stevens, Senior GIS Developer, Fountains Spatial, Inc

Contact Information:

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Deadline & Submission Information

The deadline for entries is Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Please E-mail this completed template to Ben Houston at Benjamin.h.houston@gmail.com, with "GIS Applications: [Name of Submitting Organization]" in the message Subject line.

Thank you for your submission and Good Luck!