

Greetings and welcome to Tampa!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this conference and a warm, wonderful host city. The past year has been a busy one for me, both in terms of my role with ASPRS, but, also in my “day job” with the U.S. Geological Survey. I believe the amount of activity ongoing as I have worn both of these hats throughout the year is reflective of an awakening of a much broader segment of our society to all things “map- and spatial- position-related” – especially in digital form and as it relates to imagery. While many of us have referred to the rise of Google Maps, Google Earth, and Virtual Earth in casual conversation, I believe we have just seen the tip of the iceberg in terms of what this will mean to our industry in the future. The ease of access to large volumes of both imagery and other remotely sensed data, including lidar, has definitely increased use of this information, and as predicted in the ASPRS Ten-Year Industry Forecast, will also increase demand. ASPRS has been, and continues to be, in a leadership position on both policy and technical issues related to this phenomenon. The Society provided valuable information to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy’s Future of Land Imaging Working Group by conducting a survey to estimate the benefits of moderate-resolution satellite imagery. The 2006 fall conference in San Antonio, co-hosted by the MAPPs organization, focused on digital surface modeling and automated feature extraction from remotely sensed data, including lidar. And, in case any of you have missed it, the lidar “boom” has begun, with large area data collection using this type of sensor becoming increasingly commonplace. ASPRS published THE primary source of technical information for the industry about elevation data, *Digital Elevation Model Technologies and Applications, 2nd Edition*, this year with special thanks to David Maune, the outstanding editor of this publication. Another, perhaps less well-publicized effort ASPRS initiated in the past year, is the update of the “Guidelines for Procurement of Photogrammetric Services from Private Professional Sources,” approved by the ASPRS Board of Directors in September, 1986 and last published in *PE&RS* in 1987. This document describes best practices for the procurement of photogrammetric and mapping services (and products). As President, I commissioned a special committee, co-chaired by Doug Smith and Dan Paulsen of the Professional Practices Division, and including representation from MAPPs and ACSM, to update this document. The charter requests that the committee update technological references, make definitions consistent with NCEES Model Law and Model rules, address the distinction between professional services and products, and provide guidance for organizations procuring photogrammetric and mapping services. The underlying issue here, as many of you are aware, is currently a very controversial topic within the photogrammetric and mapping community. Historically, ASPRS has led the way in working collaboratively with others in our profession to work through difficult issues. This philosophy and strategy was exemplified in the ASPRS participation in the Multi-Organization Task Force (MOTF) advising NCEES. This approach seems to have worked well for the members in the past and is certainly favored by ASPRS for working through these issues in the future. The special “Guidelines...” committee will produce a revised document this year. ASPRS will publish this in *PE&RS* for community-wide review and comment, thus, ensuring we get input from all ASPRS members.



Finally, I would like to welcome Marguerite Madden into her role as President of the Society. Marguerite is an amazing and talented individual and has contributed tremendously to the Society even before stepping into her role as President! I congratulate her and look forward to working alongside her, the other ASPRS officers and Board members, and the exemplary ASPRS staff through the next year.

Kari Craun
ASPRS President

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