

Mapping in a changing world: challenges and opportunities – Martin Lenk

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Changing worlds have had and will continue to have huge influence on Germany's Federal Mapping Agency (BKG).

BKG uses data from its 16 states, but is also using new data sources, some open such as OSM and others from private providers such as addressing. A key area is geocoding all state registers which also forms part of the e-Government role. They produce many different types of maps including TopPlus, a dynamic map that can be configured for individual customer needs.

Current challenges for BKG include

Data:

Data from multiple sources; Satellite Remote Sensing; Licenses, simple and universal is what is needed; and growing expectations and requirements from end users.

Technology:

What to integrate, the agony of choice; and high quality yet affordable IT-infrastructure

Organisation:

Strategic partners, intergovernmental, Industry and Science; Budget, more, faster, better, cheaper investments; Staff, demographic factor, junior staff; and moving to a service oriented culture

User engagement:

Knowing the requirements that users do not know yet; New relationships from consumers to partners.

However, there are also opportunities: The growing relevance of Geo-information creates a need for Geo-Competence; a connected world needs a precise Geo-Reference; reliable and sustainable partners; and 'positive thinking' to create new and better data services and solutions

- Through a tool boxes and algorithms maps can be created on request by customers that are bespoke to their needs within 24 hours
- BKG are working on the ever-increasing challenge of real time data from multiple source including sensors.
- The agony of choice, BKG is focusing on satellite remote sensing, but they are aware there are many choices available
- The balance between high quality and affordability is a difficult one to get right
- More demands on their maps will inevitably lead to better more expensive technology
- They are changing their culture to be far more service-orientated