eSpatial

Department of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries; Ireland

Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries (DAF) streamlines grant application and payment processes by combining business and geospatial data in a web-based system utilising iSMART®.

Background

DAF is a 4,500+ employee central government body with a customer base of over 300,000, ranging from individual citizens to other government bodies. DAF needed to deploy a Single Payment Scheme (SPS) application that would integrate application-form processing data with geospatial information, thereby enabling DAF to manage and process Single Farm Payment applications and payments in an integrated and web-based environment.

The challenge

Previously, DAF used two discrete systems: a GIS system and a support mainframe system. The two systems were not integrated, so considerable energy and effort were expended in performing repetitive manual processes and creating ad-hoc interfaces to validate applications and to process them through the support system.

High-level project goals

DAF's key aims were for a new, integrated system to meet EU regulations and new reporting requirements, introduce new business efficiencies, and offer new web-enabled services to its customers. The system had to leverage core employee skills without lengthy training sessions. Crucially, it also had to be delivered in less than a single payment cycle to allow the following year's schemes to be supported, hence delivering a short-term return on investment.

The solution

 DAF chose the iMAP system, which integrates application-form processing data with geospatial information, enabling DAF to manage and process EU Area Aid applications and payments in an integrated and web-based environment.

DAF chose the iMAP system because it offers complete flexibility, and is built using open, standards-based, platform-independent architecture. DAF was particularly attracted by the fact that eSpatial's spatial-information management solution hosts all spatial data in Oracle 8.1.7, thereby ensuring the reliability and security required to implement an IACS scheme.

The iMAP system is built on iSMART, which draws upon the spatial capability within Oracle 8.1.7 Database and Oracle9i Application Server.

Today the iMAP system supports the payment of some €1.5 billion in direct payments to farmers throughout Ireland, and provides full Internet access for DAF employees – some located in remote offices – and individual farmers.

Award-winning technology
The SPS application won the award for best project in "Government to Business" category in the prestigious Irish Innovation through Technology Awards in 2005.

Benefits for DAF

- Establishing a web-based integrated system to track, process and pay Area Aid applications according to EU regulations.

- Providing a single point of access for all spatial data and functions, allowing comprehensive reporting and printing of maps, application forms, reports and letters.

- Providing a single, homogenous view of all agricultural land use for which direct payments have been claimed, so that claims can be validated.

- A range of direct-payment schemes and other critical functions within DAF can be easily built and supported.

- Regional offices have access to centralised data, improving efficiency and accuracy, and reducing costs.

- Building on current DAF records so that all archives can be accessed via the new system, thereby preserving historical data for future use.

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> *"Using eSpatial and Oracle technology provides a comprehensive framework for the management and delivery of area-based grant payments, enabling us to meet our EU obligations and provide our farmers with a faster and more efficient service.*
>
> *"SPS provides a comprehensive framework for the management and delivery of area-based grant payments. Current spatial data is now distributed throughout the organisation and, because grant payments are based on this data, they can be processed quickly and accurately."*
>
> *Philip O'Reilly, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Agriculture and Food, Ireland*

About iSMART

iSMART transforms data with a geographic component into easily-understood maps, charts and graphs that can be interpreted to provide actionable business insights.

Combining the latest innovations in software delivery and usability with the full functionality of a Geographic Information System (GIS), iSMART makes location intelligence available to any organisation.

iSMART is an affordable, predictable, and scalable location intelligence tool, suitable for both GIS experts and newcomers to location intelligence alike. It also provides an ideal enterprise grade hosted services delivery platform for geospatial applications.

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About eSpatial

eSpatial is a leading provider of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and a pioneer in the provision of location intelligence delivered via Software-as-a-Service (SaaS).

Our flagship product, iSMART, has pioneered the availability of a full-function GIS or location intelligence tool with SaaS delivery.

As an established presence in the GIS and location intelligence space, eSpatial has developed considerable expertise and intellectual property in spatial software use and development.

We are proud to work with leading technology partners such as Oracle, NAVTEQ and Digital Globe; and to count many leading organisations amongst our global customer base.

eSpatial is headquartered in Dublin, Ireland.

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