



USACE CADD NEWSLETTER



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CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field.

Send all submissions and/or comments to
lorilee.k.taylor@mvp02.usace.army.mil

CADD/GIS Symposium 2004

The 2004 Symposium will be held in San Antonio, TX 16-19 August 2004. The FAC Committees will have a booth at the Symposium again this year, with emphasis on standards implementation. I hear that the theme for the booth is going to be Bedrock. Registration for the Symposium opened on 15 March. The "Corps" hotel will be the Hilton, and reservations must be made five weeks before the Symposium in order to guarantee a room.

The CADD/GIS Technology Center Corporate Staff Meetings

The Center Corporate Staff held a teleconference on 23 January. It was agreed to change the method of preparing projects for the Center program. This year the CADD/GIS Technology Center will replace its annual Call for Projects process with a web-based needs assessment solicitation. The new format allowed users to submit both "big picture" and "user-specific" needs simply and quickly, without having to develop a full project with Return-on-Investment calculations. Submittals were due 23 March. Additional discussions were held on the focus of the Center and the need to look at the

FWGs and consider possible realignment.

A meeting of the Corporate Staff was held at Patuxent River Naval Air Station on 11-12 February. The Center presented the status of the FY04 projects plus current information about the FWGs. The group agreed that they need to look at the FWGs and determine if they are accomplishing the objectives set forth in the Business Plan. The Facilitators and FWGs will put together a report for the CS members on what they have accomplished and what they are working on prior to the next CS teleconference. The CS will need to determine if the groups need to be realigned and given direction as to how they are to proceed. It was agreed by the group that the Center will put together projects for FY05 from the requirements submitted by the field. These proposed projects will be submitted to the FWGs and the CS to evaluate. The next CS meeting will be held 3 May in Washington, DC. FWG Chairs will also attend this meeting and bring the results of their groups' evaluation of the proposed projects to the table.

USACE Inland Electronic Navigational Chart Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides navigation charts for more than 9,100 miles of inland waterways in 23 river/waterway systems. In 2001, the Corps was funded to initiate an Inland Electronic Navigational Chart Program that would develop and support new digital charts for the inland waterways. The Corps began by transforming digital river and chart data into new products called Inland Electronic Navigational Charts (IENCs). The first IENCs are now being released for public use as IENC "cells" are completed and verified.

The IENCs are databases containing all information typically found on standard Corps paper navigation charts with extended features and additional data attribution. They link to images of navigationally significant river features, such as bridge profiles. The databases are distributed in a standardized digital exchange format called S-57 Edition 3.1. S-57 is a highly structured, topologically rigorous format that is internationally accepted and used by many navigation software producers.

When used together with other shipboard sensor instrument data, such as radar, sonar, and GPS, IENCs form a system called an Electronic Charting System (ECS). ECS provides a navigation information tool that aids in safer and more efficient operation in inland waterways by offering such features as grounding alarms, positioning, and voyage management.

NOAA also maintains a growing suite of electronic charts for the U.S. coastal zones and the Great Lakes, as does the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) for its Canadian waters.

CAD and GIS data users should also hold S-57 data in special interest. Some GIS software providers provide capability to import S-57 data easily and directly. By their nature, Corps IENCs and other electronic charts are very uniform in structure and content, having been built to conform to encoding guides. They also possess a common WGS 84 coordinate system and they are regularly updated. The S-57 standard itself is now undergoing revision to fully develop the ability to manage time-varying objects.

The S-57 data coverage offers CADD and GIS data users significant seamless, temporally current North American GIS data sets for analysis of the inland waterways and coastal zones. The standard's data structure and characteristics present significant opportunities for GIS use.

See complete article: <http://www.geospatial-online.com/geospatialolutions/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=68394&pageID=1>

Related Link: <http://www.tec.army.mil/echarts>

Contributed by Ralph Scheid, CEMVN.

SAC Committee Members

The current SAC Committee members are:

- John Bailen, CEMVP, Chair
- Larry Rogers, CESWF
- Arthur Connolly, CENAN
- Thomas Trainer, CESP
- Howard Jones, CENWP
- Ralph Barrett, CESAS
- Michael Bart, CENWW
- Bob Fitzgerald, CEMVK
- John Jaeger, CELRH
- David Steele, CESWT

Field Action CAD (FAC) Committees Notes:

FAC Committees Chairs

Architectural	Stan Shirk (NWO)	Stanton.L.Shirk@usace.army.mil
Civil	Ed Murphy (SWF)	Edward.A.Murphy@usace.army.mil
Cost & Specification	Gareth Clausen (NWW)	Gareth.M.Clausen@usace.army.mil
Geotechnical	Glenn Kato (TAC)	Glenn.K.Kato@usace.army.mil
Mechanical/Electrical	Kendall Waldie (SWF)	Kendall.R.Waldie@usace.army.mil
Structural	Lori Taylor (MVP)	Lorilee.K.Taylor@usace.army.mil
Systems	John Kincaid (MVR)	John,A.Kincaid@usace.army.mil

Currently Stan Shirk is on a 4 – 6 months detail, and Steve Hutsell, SWF, is acting chair of the Architectural FAC. Contact one of the chairs to join a committee and get involved in making a difference in the Corps CADD world.

CADD Community of Practice

Hopefully, by now, you are all aware that Headquarters is in the process of standing up a number of communities of practice in conjunction with USACE 2012 implementation.

What is a community of practice (CoP)? *The “Official” Definition: Individuals that practice and share an interest in a major functional area or business line.* What is it really? It’s us! We were ahead of our time. In fact, the CADD community was looked at as part of a study to gather

best practices to help in the formation of other CoPs.

So what does this mean to us? It means that soon we will have collaboration tools that will enable us to provide input to policy, easily locate subject matter experts, share tools, hold threaded discussions, access training, and much more.

When will we see something “official?” The CoP Implementation PDT trying to have a tool kit (collaboration software) selected and web template developed by April. The first group of CoPs is scheduled to standup between April and July. The Engineering and Construction (E&C) CoP is part of that first group, and the CADD community is a sub-CoP under the E&C CoP. This does not mean that the E&C CoP will be totally up and running by July. What it does mean is that they will have established a core group of community stakeholders and subject matter experts, conducted a core planning workshop and drafted a community charter. From there, they will be able to take the steps necessary to implement and build the communities.

Contributed by Lori Taylor, CEMVP

SDSFIE Training Workshops for FY04

The CADD/GIS Technology Center for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment has scheduled SDSFIE Training Workshops for FY04. The Basic Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment (SDSFIE) Workshop stresses the fundamentals of GIS, SDSFIE organization, and use of three core SDSFIE tools, the Browser, Filter Maker, and Access Builder. The Advanced SDSFIE class focuses on implementation of the SDSFIE as it pertains to ESRI Geodatabase structure. Other course topics cover data-processing issues such as spatial references, feature level metadata, and data migration. Many students gain the confidence and skills to undertake the data conversion and migration into an SDSFIE database.

Schedule of classes is as follows: Basic SDSFIE Implementation – 14-16 June, and 17-18 Aug 2004; Advanced SDSFIE Implementation 16-18 June and 17-19 Aug 2004. Classes are limited to 18 people. Further information concerning these workshops can be found online at: <http://tsc.wes.army.mil/news/classes/ClassRegistration/>. Classes fill quickly; please sign-up early.
Submitted by Laurel Gorman, CADD/GIS Technology Center

Available on Center Web Site

The following items of interest are now available on the CADD/GIS Technology Center web site at <http://tsc.wes.army.mil>:

- Information about the upcoming Symposium, with online registration available after 19 March.
- The Fall03 issue of the CADD/GIS Insights is a Special Double Issue focusing on Homeland Security. The Center’s role, field user experiences, and industry developed CADD/GIS applications on threat assessments and security measures are featured in this issue. In addition, articles highlighting the latest releases on Center products and services are included,

as well as a calendar of upcoming events of interest to CADD and GIS users.

- The most recent major release of the SDSFIE is Release 2.30, currently being prepared for CD distribution. The complete install can be obtained via [Internet Download](#). The [SDSFIE Release 2.30 Release Notes](#) detail all of the changes in this release.
- The Draft release of the "Contract Language Guidelines for Acquiring Geospatial Data (CADD, GIS, CAFM) System Deliverables from Architect-Engineer (A-E) Consulting Firms" document is now available. Review comments have been collected and are being evaluated.

Workspace Issues

On 2/26/04, the CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center) awarded a contract to InStep to help resolve some of the A/E/C Workspace problems submitted by the Seattle District in January 04. Since the problems are pressing to Seattle, a short timetable for deliverables was developed and agreed upon. The first major deliverable will be submitted on 4/1/04.

Since the submittal of the Seattle letter coincided with the recent Corps' FAC Jekyll Island meeting, the Center was able to include the FAC's list of prioritized problems into the SOW. About 75% of the FAC's list of problems echoed the list that the Seattle District submitted.

Edward Huell at the Center is working on items that need to be resolved as related to the Center symbol library. He has already corrected one problem item and posted the resulting symbol file on the Center website.

Steve Spangler sent e-mails to John Maciejewski (Seattle District) and John Kincaid/Steve Hutsell/Debbie Solis (FAC) informing them of the Center progress and requested a list of deliverable reviewers from each group, to ensure that the deliverables meet their expectations. Steve has already received a list from John Maciejewski and expects to receive the FAC's list soon.

New Corps CADD Proponent

James (Toby) Wilson, of the CADD/GIS Technology Center will be taking over the duties of Corps CADD Proponent when Jean McGinn retires on 2 April. His phone is 601-634-3604; e-mail is James.T.Wison@wes02.usace.army.mil.

Call for Articles

I encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles for the next issue, which should be issued the end of June 2004. Since I, Jean McGinn, will be retiring 2 April 2004, Lori Taylor has volunteered to take over putting this newsletter together. Send articles to her at lorilee.k.taylor@mvp02.usace.army.mil.