



# *Phase 3 – Call for Participation:* Authenticated Access to European Spatial Data Sets

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*AGILE/EuroSDR/OGC Persistent SDI Testbed for Research and Teaching in Europe (PTB)*

*Closing date: July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012*

*Phase 3 runtime: Mid-2012 to mid-2013*

## **Background & Motivation**

Administrative Bodies holding geospatial data (e.g. National Mapping and Cadastre Authorities) usually hesitate to provide unrestricted access to their data sets. Nevertheless, access to these data sets is often essential for the research community, e.g. especially (but not limited to) in an INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) directive context. Agreed technologies and particular license models are still lacking.

From a technological point of view, technologies like SAML (Security Assertion Markup Language) provide means to control data set access in a very easy way (see for instance results from the ESDIN project<sup>1</sup> and two OGC Interoperability Experiments (IE)<sup>2</sup>).

As the interest from the PTB community was high (several members participated in the above activities), and various administrative bodies holding geospatial data and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission expressed their interest as well, it was decided to continue these activities on an European level, supported and steered by the PTB as the next PTB Phase 3. Additionally, Phase 3 directly addresses the recommendations from the AGILE 'Data Access Initiative' final report<sup>3</sup>.

## **Goals**

In particular, PTB Phase 3 addresses the following goals:

- Set up a small prototypical SAML-based access federation for the access to a few NMCA data sets for the European GI science community to show a general feasibility of the concept,
- Propose a refined concept taken into account the experienced problems and pitfalls,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.esdin.eu/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/shibbolethie> and <http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/authie>

<sup>3</sup> <http://plone.itc.nl/agile/initiatives/Spatial%20Data%20Access%20Final%20Report.pdf> (Sections 10-12)

- Raise the awareness and encourage the use of a common access management federation technology (e.g. SAML) to allow cross administrative domain interoperability where protected services are involved.

In a long term perspective, Phase 3 supports the vision of a funding to provide the technical infrastructure to establish a European access federation for geospatial data sets hold by administrative bodies (including client support and knowledge transfer).

## Call for Participation / Proposals

To guarantee real live cases and thus sustainability, applications to Phase 3 should follow these guidelines:

- Interested participants are asked to always team up (at least one administrative body holding geospatial data and one research institution),
- Focus technology **and** license models,
- Follow a bottom-up approach: First have solutions within the (national) teams and then try to scale them up on the European level.

The above list should be treated as non-exclusive, any proposals which further the PTB will receive due consideration. Those interested in responding to this call should provide a **one page** summary with any ancillary information provided as appendices (including a nominated point of contact with the PTB).

Your proposal should align with the PTB objectives as outlined on <http://sdi-testbed.eu>.

Generally, an expertise in developing Spatial Data Infrastructures and knowing their concepts/problems and best practices is strongly advised. If the data sets of the applicants come from INSPIRE Annex themes, specific expertise is needed in terms of data schema development and usage, INSPIRE principles and detailed knowledge of INSPIRE Annex data sets.

**No payment can be made to contributors for provision of hardware, software, data or services nor will any expenses be reimbursed for this phase of development.** Nevertheless, AGILE and EuroSDR committed resources to support workshops and possibly final publications.

Please send your response to this Call for Proposals and any further questions to Johannes Brauner (contact details below).

The closing date for submissions is 1st July 2012.

## Next Steps

A panel made up of representatives from AGILE, EuroSDR and OGC will review and evaluate the responses to this Call for Participation. The outcome will be communicated to participants directly and via the mailing list/newsletter.

## **Mailing List**

Please consider to subscribe to the PTB mailing list at: <https://mailman.zih.tu-dresden.de/groups/listinfo/gis-ptb>

or contact Johannes Brauner for a subscription.

## **Contact**

Please mail your response and further questions to the PTB facilitator:

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Yours sincerely

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