

Press Information

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ESRI Provides Leadership Role as OpenLS Specification Is Released to the Public

Redlands, California—ESRI continues to maintain a leadership role in the OpenLS™ initiative as members of the Open GIS Consortium (OGC) voted to release the specification to the public on April 11, 2003, in Orleans, France. The OGC OpenLS specification defines interface protocols for a set of core services, the building blocks for location-based service (LBS) applications. ESRI is a principle sponsor of the OpenLS initiative under which these specifications were developed and is among the first geoserver vendors to implement an OpenLS platform.

“ESRI has been an active member of the OpenLS team and has made a major contribution to the definition of the OpenLS specification,” said Kurt Buehler, vice president and chief technology officer of the Open GIS Consortium. “OGC is especially proud that our members, including ESRI, are implementing the OpenLS specification even before it is formally adopted. This fact demonstrates their strong commitment to open standards, specifications, and interoperability as well as their comfort in the maturity and stability of the proposed OpenLS specification.”

“ESRI had a leading role in defining and editing the OpenLS specification,” says Jonathan Spinney, industry manager, location-based services, ESRI. “Because we were dedicated from day one, we are also the first vendor to make the application program interface (API) available through our Web services offering. Infrastructure vendors, application developers, and wireless carriers or operators can start using the API now.”

In an open and integrated environment, interfaces between different components rely heavily on standardization. ESRI is not only providing an OpenLS platform but also conforms to the Location Interoperability Forum-Mobile Location Protocol (LIF-MLP). MLP is a global industry standard that defines a common interface that facilitates the

exchange of location information between mobile networks and location-based applications.

Other LBS industry standards and technology groups in which ESRI participates include the expert group for the Java Community Process (JCP) JSR 179 Location API for Java 2 Micro Edition (J2ME). The API is designed to be compact and generic and is able to produce information about the present geographic location of resource-limited handheld devices and relay it to Java applications.

ESRI remains strongly committed to leveraging open and interoperable standards, thereby ensuring that its user community can locate, understand, and use data and services to share knowledge, optimize decisions, and communicate more effectively. For comprehensive information on ESRI's dedication to data standards and GIS interoperability, visit www.esri.com/standards.

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About ESRI

For more than 30 years, ESRI has been the leading developer of GIS software with more than 300,000 clients worldwide. ESRI software is used in all 200 of the largest cities in the United States and in more than 60 percent of counties and municipalities nationwide. Headquartered in California, ESRI has regional offices throughout the United States, international distributors in more than 90 countries, and more than 1,500 business partners. ESRI's goal is to develop comprehensive tools that enable users to efficiently manage, use, and serve geographic information to make a difference in the world around them. ESRI also provides consulting, implementation, and technical support services. ESRI can be found on the Web at www.esri.com.

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