

OpenGIS[®]

June 16, 2004

Kurt Buehler
Open GIS Consortium, Inc.

Kurt,

After more than a decade of remarkable service, we understand that you are leaving us to pursue interests outside of OGC. You were a founding officer of OGC and a key participant in its predecessor organization, OGF. Your technical vision, dedication, and ability to listen, mediate, motivate, organize and teach provided the foundation for many of OGC's accomplishments.

From the beginning, you understood how interoperability through freely available interface standards could effect a paradigm shift in our industry, and you devoted yourself to working with others to synthesize the best technical ideas in the Information Technology world in the service of this goal. Under your leadership, OGC membership formulated the fundamental theory of interoperable geoprocessing and went on to define its implementation potential in advanced system computing environments. As a result of your unique efforts, one of the world's most frustratingly complex and heterogeneous technology domains has become a model for the efficient creation of a framework for Web-based interoperability, attested to by the hundreds of products that now extend the benefits of geospatial interoperability to thousands of users around the world.

In addition to being a technology architect, you were the principal designer of OGC's original consensus process. You did not know in the beginning how to mediate between diverse and opinionated technology developers, but you bravely took on the task of working among them to negotiate policies and procedures they could live by, and in the process facilitated development of the OpenGIS technology that would change the face of geoprocessing. The result is that OGC now maintains a respected industry consensus process, recognized for its effectiveness in the fractious world of geospatial standards and widely known for its ability to absorb user requirements. Due in no small part to your efforts, OGC has in fact become a process model for many other voluntary consensus standards organizations.

This is an extraordinary legacy. I speak for OGC directors, staff and members when I say that we are all fortunate to have known and worked with you, and that your contribution to our common cause will be missed. However, I am sure that you are leaving with a sense of satisfaction knowing that the OGC community will continue to be strong, and that, in no small way due to your efforts, this community has a solid technology platform and institutional basis on which to build. On behalf of all of us, thank you.

Sincerely,

David Schell