Nokia maps come pre-installed in Series 40 phones

Nokia is offering its maps pre-installed in the Series 40 phones. Available free of cost, the maps will operate in offline mode as well. The Series 40 phones also include devices from the new Asha range including the Asha 303 Series. Claiming to 'put the world at the fingertips,' Nokia's mapping service does not depend on GPS and is thus made available even when the user is not connected to the Internet. It uses the network positioning system, which is aimed at saving on data as well as downloading costs.

The Nokia free maps service currently covers maps of over 180 countries, and visual turn-by-turn navigation is offered for around a 100 nations. To enable users to further update their maps online and for sharing or other purposes, the maps have been priced reasonably. According to Nokia, charges for employing the positioning service can be compared to the standard SMS rates in India. Nokia maps on Series 40 phones offer the same level of coverage as that enjoyed by smartphone users.

Two UK universities join Intergraph Global Education programme

Two UK Universities – University College London (UCL) and Aberdeen University – have joined Intergraph's global education programme. Both have been awarded Intergraph Registered Research Laboratory (RRL) grants, which provide access to an extensive suite of desktop and Web-based geospatial software at no cost. The software awarded under the RRL grants will support research and teaching activities. Additionally, the students will also benefit from free personal education licenses of Intergraph's flagship desktop GIS package, GeoMedia Professional.

The programme enables academia to use Intergraph software in research and training activities for free.

Dr Claire Ellul, Lecturer in GIS within the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering at UCL, said, "It is important for our students to select the software tool most appropriate for their requirements, Intergraph's Student License Grant facilitates this."

RMSI software bags 'Tech Initiative of the Year' award

'PIER' (Profiler for insurance exposure and risk), a risk assessment software developed by RMSI, has won the 'Technology Initiative of the Year' award presented at the 15th Asian insurance industry awards held at Singapore. PIER is India's first geospatial-based risk assessment tool that provides users with an integrated view of exposure, hazard and business data for the entire country. It is developed using the latest GIS technologies particularly to help insurance companies improve identification, assessment, pricing and management of risk across various lines of business. Insurers can use PIER to create risk indices for various hazards and these indices help companies develop risk-based ratings. It helps underwriters better understand the location and susceptibility to natural hazards.

NRSC to set up data station in Antarctica

The Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) is setting up a remote sensing ground station in the continent of Antarctica, which will be connected to the NRSC's station in Shadnagar. The ground station is expected to be functional early next year and will boost the remote sensing data transmitted by Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites. The data will be particularly helpful in emergency management during natural calamities like earthquakes, tsunamis and floods, and will also provide updated information on regular data terrain in various locations across the country.

According to NRSC sources, the proposed ground station in Antarctica will receive data around 10 to 12 orbits per day from different IRS satellites.

AeroMetric's BP oil cloud computing project bags MAPPS award

A project providing cloud computing solution to geospatial data for BP Deep Water Horizon event has been selected as the grand award winner in the 5th Annual MAPPS Geospatial Products and Services Excellence Awards. The project was selected for AeroMetric's ability to provide BP a dynamic process to develop and manage remote sensing, aerial surveillance acquisition programs and geospatial intelligence products and dissemination in response to the Deep Water Horizon accident. AeroMetric's geospatial cloud project won in the GIS/IT category.

"AeroMetric developed a workable cloud solution before 'the cloud' became an accepted and mainstream idea," said Professor Robert Burtch PS, CP, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan chairman of the judges' panel.