

2.3.1 Nextmap USA – A National Digital Elevation Mapping Program and Its Applications in Transportation

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There has long been a need by GIS data users for current, accurate, large coverage area DEM (Digital Elevation Model) data for consistent mapping, planning, and feature analysis. To fulfill this need, a comprehensive US national mapping program commenced in 2004. This program, called NEXTMap USA, will provide the geospatial user community with high-resolution, high-accuracy, Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data with full national coverage to be completed in a five-year period by 2009. Many states have already been fully mapped.

NEXTMap DEM data have been successfully used for a wide variety of GIS-related transportation applications such as corridor planning, hydrological and hydraulic engineering, terrain analysis, hazard mapping, digital orthophotography, and 3D visualization, at both regional and local levels.

This presentation will be targeted to the geospatial data user community that already have a basic understanding of aerial mapping but are not yet familiar with IFSAR mapping data and its applications. It will also provide an update on the current program status and plans for the future. Some case studies of these projects will be demonstrated during the presentation.