

METROPOLIS | D_CITY GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE TOWARDS SMART SOLUTIONS FOR ECO CITIES

SUMMARY OF SETUP ACTIVITIES OCTOBER 2008-APRIL 2009

PROCESS TO APPOINT A GLOBAL RESEARCH LEADERS GROUP

D_City has confirmed Professor Saskia Sassen of Columbia University (author of *The Global City*) to chair a Global Research Leaders Group Appointments Panel comprising three internationally distinguished urban research professors. The other two members of the Panel will be nominated by Metropolis and the International Society for Digital Earth (one nominee each).

Other international peak organisations with interests of relevance to the d_city project have been invited to nominate academic leaders with outstanding expertise in the five d_city research themes: Natural Systems Modelling, Building Information Modelling, City Information Modelling, City Information Networking and Planetary Systems Modelling.

These organisations include:

- Alliance for Climate Protection
- Buckminster Fuller Institute
- FIG (International Federation of Surveyors)
- Greenpeace International
- Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association
- IEEE (computer engineering institute)
- International Society for Digital Earth
- International Standards Organization
- Nobel Foundation
- Open Geospatial Consortium
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- World Council for Renewable Energy
- World Federation of Engineering Organizations
- World Green Buildings Council

In 2009, the Global Research Leaders Group appointments process also is open to nominations from organisations involved in developing the draft Agreement for the Copenhagen Climate Council's proposed Copenhagen Summit in December 2009. These include several divisions and programs of the United Nations, including UNEP, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UN G@IT and United Cities and Local Governments, and ICLEI, United Governments for Sustainability.

D_City is lobbying relevant organisations to win support for including the Metropolis | d_city global research program as part of the Copenhagen Agreement. It is negotiating with the International Society for Digital Earth to become the co-ordinating research networking organisation to be formally partnered with Metropolis on the

d_city alliance. [d_city itself is the trademark and communications and research commercialisation services to support the alliance.]

A confidential draft list of more than 30 nominated professors was submitted to Metropolis Secretary General Josep Roig before the end of April.

PROGRESS TO DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS FOR ONLINE PLANNING OF ECO CITIES CASE STUDIES

Before the appointment of a Global Research Leaders Group to thought-lead common goals and guidelines for this international chain of case study project collaborations (each involving government, academic and commercial organisations), informal expressions of interest have been received from:

- The City of London and University College London
- The Vietnam Ministry of Construction and Hanoi University of Architecture
- The Victorian Growth Areas Authority and Deakin University (Melbourne and Geelong)
- The NSW (Government) Spatial Council (Sydney)
- The National Institute of Urban Affairs and All-India Institute for Local Self Government (Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi)

Further expressions of interest are welcomed from potential government, university and commercial participants in these case studies. A formal call for expressions of interest will be announced in late 2009.

Potentially relevant to the d_city project is the Earth Simulator Center (a complex model of the world's natural meteorological, oceanographic and terrain behaviours) at a major array of supercomputers near Yokohama, Japan. Further conversations are needed with the principals of the major international space agencies.

See Appendix A for the briefing summary for the Online Planning for Eco Cities project.

PROGRESS TO DEVELOP THREE INTERNATIONAL SERVICES ENTITIES

The d_city scheme is an ambitious international public-private partnership (PPP) to accelerate smart solutions for eco cities. It involves four sectors of activities: Research, Government, Commerce and the Media/Community Interest. Included with this document is a diagram showing how the scheme is intended to work.

To be successful, three new global enterprises must be established:

G3D Alliance

Several international organisations have been asked to collaborate to establish an alliance between them to jointly work towards accelerating systems, sources, supplies, protocols and standards for the large amounts of diversified data potentially needed by researchers participating in various d_city research projects.

These organisations include:

- The International Society for Digital Earth
- International Standards Organization
- Open Geospatial Consortium
- FIG (International Federation of Surveyors)

Through their international memberships, they will be responsible for initiating discussions with space agencies, regional science research foundations, government entities and other sources of data relevant to modelling urban developments.

The draft name for this proposed alliance is the Global 3D Data Alliance (G3D).

DCity Pty Ltd

Registered in Australia, this company is intended to provide online communications services for the global research network and its stakeholder organisations in the public and private sectors.

Via regional offices in Europe, Asia, North America and Australia, it will manage regional operations for the d_city 'club' of government and individual members and corporate partners.

Its management will co-ordinate uses of the internationally registered d_city trademark and the online systems for communication and collaborations.

It is envisaged that equity in this company would be provided to a number of famous international magazine titles which have been asked to form an alliance to support the d_city project. Discussions have begun in London between Wired magazine (Conde Nast), New Scientist (Reed Elsevier), National Geographic and the Economist. Other publishers are also relevant and interested.

Data City Systems Pty Ltd (DCS)

Registered in Australia, this company is intended to work with the research leadership in the d_city system and with major international ICT corporations to commercialise academic proofs of concept submitted to and approved by the Global Research Leaders Group, Royalties would be paid to the researchers, their supervisors and their institutions on a 50:25:25% basis of a yet to be decided share of sales revenue (this model comes from book publishing royalties).

DCS is working with a team at PriceWaterhouseCoopers to prepare a business plan that will attract major business investors interested in supporting a profitable new brand (d_city) of software programs likely to be purchased by government and urban development customers.

The d_city software series is intended to also commercialise research projects developed by private sector firms – not necessarily approved through the Global Research Leaders Group.

Handling of Profits from DCity Pty Ltd and Data City Systems Pty Ltd

Boards representing the shareholders of DCity Pty Ltd and Data City Systems Pty Ltd will need to decide how to distribute profits not only to shareholders but also to strengthen and benefit the research network, while retaining enough annual revenue to satisfy investors and comfortably support the ambitious overall scheme.

APPENDIX A



Connecting Global Intelligence
Towards Eco Solutions for Cities

ONLINE PLANNING FOR ECO CITIES

Issue

Cities would be better planned and managed by accelerating applications of online tools and systems, information modelling, sensor monitoring and advanced 3D spatial technologies.

The goal is to allow ubiquitous and convenient access to virtual 'data cities' representing conditions, behaviours and planning scenarios in the real world.

Proposal

d_city proposes a global collaboration called Online Planning for Eco Cities, involving an emerging network of academic and industry researchers, global ICT and urban development companies, and government entities.

d_city is appointing a cross-disciplinary Global Research Leaders Group to provide guidance on issues of technology compatibility and long-term research priorities. Particular case studies to solve particular urban problems, often in particular locations, will be the task of participating research groups.

The d_city network will rely on open source solutions.

Background: Metropolis | d_city Global Alliance

The Metropolis | d_city alliance is based on a memorandum of understanding ratified at the Metropolis major city governments Congress in Sydney in October 2008.

d_city is seeking nominations from suitable organisations to appoint a Global Research Leaders Group to annually update the alliance's 'Declaration of Research Priorities Towards Smart Solutions for Eco Cities'. This is intended to guide:

- Major new international collaborations across the research, government, commerce and communications sectors to accelerate intelligent decision-making about cities,
- Speed up integrations of education, knowledge, skills and opportunities across the disciplines concerned with virtual, built and natural environments, and
- Support new economic growth opportunities for spatial information, ICT, and property development industries.

APPENDIX B



Connecting Global Intelligence Towards Eco Solutions For Cities

INTRODUCING THE METROPOLIS | D_CITY ALLIANCE TO ACCELERATE THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION IN PLANNING, DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING AND MANAGING CITIES

