Dear FOSS4G 2013 selection committee

The UK Chapter of OSGeo in partnership with the Association for Geographic Information are excited to submit our proposal to host the FOSS4G 2013 conference at the East Midlands Conference Centre at the University of Nottingham in England.

By co-locating with the annual UK AGI GeoCommunity Conference in September, we will take the opportunity to place FOSS4G firmly in the mainstream, providing 6 days of co-ordinated conference and workshops to as wide an audience of GIS practitioners as possible. As well as the benefits of cross-attendance for delegates, exhibitors and presenters, the increased scale will bring cost savings, helping to ensure that we can offer competitive rates for both the conference and accommodation and an improved return to the OSGeo Foundation.

Venue Information

The EMCC provides two large theatre style spaces to accommodate up to 1400 people, twenty syndicate rooms for other talks and workshops and a substantial communal space for networking and relaxation between sessions. The venue provides substantial wifi capacity and an in-house IT and AV team to support all of our needs. PC labs are available in a 5 minute walking range for workshops. We have three levels of accommodation available including student rooms and a new hotel on campus and 12,500 hotel rooms in Nottingham, rates will range from $65 to $240.

Local facilities

Nottingham is the regional capital of Nottinghamshire and one of the UK's most stylish cities. It is set within a county of outstanding natural beauty that includes Sherwood Forest, lively market towns, and wonderful historic buildings. It's also home to one of the world's most famous and best loved outlaws, Robin Hood who would have thoroughly approved of the Open Source ethos. Nottingham, is a vibrant, versatile and youthful city right at the heart of England, and the conference is being hosted at one of the UK's top 10 universities, embracing creativity and originality and strong links with the world of Open Source software. Nottingham is served by East Midlands (regional) and Birmingham (international) airports with easy rail services from London, Liverpool and Manchester airports. There is also a state-of-the-art, award-winning public transport system allowing easy access to Nottingham city centre.

Organising Committee

Our organising committee brings together experienced geographers and open source specialists. Our partners, the AGI have over 10 years experience of organising geo conferences including the UK's premier event GeoCommunity, and their logistical resources will ensure a cost-effective and smoothly run event.

Conference Chair - Steven Feldman

Steven (@stevenfeldman) is currently chairman of geo.me Solutions and through his consultancy KnowWhere, he works as a non-executive director, a strategic consultant and an investor, advisor and mentor to technology startups. He founded and chaired the first three AGI GeoCommunity conferences and is a Special Lecturer at the School of Geography at the University of Nottingham where he recently initiated the OpenStreetMap GB Quality Enhancement Project, which is being hosted on the university's OSGeo reference platform.

- Suchith Anand is leading open source research at the Nottingham Geospatial Institute and an active member of OSGeo:UK.
- Jo Cook (@archaeogeek) works for Astun Technology, and is the founder and representative of the local chapter of OSGeo:UK and a Director of OSGeo
- Chris Holcroft (@chris_agi) is Chief Executive of the Association for Geographic Information (AGI)
- Rollo Home (@rollohome) is a GIS consultant with 15 years experience of GI projects around the world
- Claire Huppertz is the Events Manager at the Association for Geographic Information (AGI)

- Jeremy Morley (@jeremy_morley) is Theme Leader for Geospatial Science at the Nottingham Geospatial Institute, University of Nottingham.
- Addy Pope is the content officer at EDINA and an active member of OSGeo:UK
- Barry Rowlingson (@geospacedman) is a Senior Research Associate at Lancaster University and an active member of OSGeo:UK
- Mike Saunt (@skepticmike) is the owner of Astun Technology, sponsor of OSGeo and an active member of OSGeo:UK
- Antony Scott (@antscott) is a GIS practitioner in the energy management sector, leading GIS delivery for Sustain Ltd and an active member of OSGeo:UK
- Matt Walker (@_walkermatt) is a consultant and software engineer with over 10 years working within the industry and an active member of OSGeo:UK

The diversity of experience and energy of the organising committee will deliver a stimulating and enjoyable program. Most of us have worked on successful events previously, and have attended and/or presented at several previous FOSS4G conferences. The committee is also backed by a 150-strong, enthusiastic, and committed OSGeo Local Chapter.

Supporting Organisations

Alongside the AGI, and our organising committee, our bid has already gained the support of leading geospatial organisations within the UK. These include Ordnance Survey, the UK's national mapping agency who are delivering the UK's INSPIRE platform on open source components, the Nottingham Geospatial Institute who lead open source geo research in the UK and host the annual OSGIS conference, Astun Technology a leading open source solutions busines, Geo.me and EDINA all of whom are represented on the LOC.

Why FOSS4G 2013 in Nottingham?

- We have an experienced and enthusiastic team with a strong commitment to Open Source who are bubbling with ideas to make FOSS4G 2013 the biggest and most exciting event in its history and who have extensive experience in profitable, community-involving GIS and FOSS-GIS conference organisation.
- We have a state of the art venue with excellent transport links, a range of accommodation options and beautiful and historic visitor attractions nearby.
- Hosting FOSS4G 2013 just before GeoCommunity in the same facilities will attract more delegates, save money and deliver a high return to OSGeo whilst offering great value for money to delegates.
- We already have ideas for an innovative promotional campaign to attract sponsors and delegates which will include a running blog of the LOC team's preparations which can help to derive a Conference Cookbook for future organisers
- We will build the social and networking aspect of the conference taking advantage of the venue to host more informal events that are included within the delegate fee.

We know we can deliver an outstanding conference for OSGeo, give us the chance to bid for FOSS4G 2013 and we are sure we will convince you.

I (shfeldman@gmail.com) and my team are available to answer any questions that arise from this letter.

Best regards

Steven Feldman (on behalf of the UK OSGeo Chapter FOSS4G 2013 Team)