Mr Jeff McKenna
OSGeo VP Conferences
Suite 200
30 Rosemount Ave
Ottawa, ON K1Y 1P4
Canada

November 6th, 2008

Open University of Catalonia support for FOSS4G Barcelona conference

I am very pleased to present this letter of support on behalf of the Open University of Catalonia (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, UOC) for Barcelona's bid to host the FOSS4G Barcelona conference.

As you may already be aware, Barcelona has a very active Free / Open Source Software community, and the UOC has been actively promoting free software by offering open alternatives to students; with an Official Master Programme in Free Software; and as a institution contributing to the new free software virtual campus.

Hosting the FOSS4G conference in Barcelona would be an ideal opportunity to raise the awareness of the use of FOSS, in particular in the geospatial community.

Barcelona is also a very beautiful city and has a highly developed conferencing, technological and tourist infrastructure which will contribute to a successful meeting of FOSS4G, as well as offering an inspiring and exciting range of unique social events and touring options.

Last July, the Free Knowledge Free Technology (FKFT) conference, http://fkft.eu/, with UOC as one of the organisers, took place in Barcelona and we found it to be an excellent location in terms of facilities and easy accessibility for delegates from around the world, and also due to the collaboration of authorities.

The UOC is looking forward to welcoming members of the open source spatial community to Barcelona in 2010.

Kind regards,

Rafael Macau
Chief Department
Department of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunication
Open University of Catalonia