

From

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To
The OSGeo Conference Committee

Dear Committee,

I am pleased to support the UK Organizing Committee's bid to host the Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference in 2013 in Nottingham , UK.

I was lucky enough to attend FOSS4G 2011 in Denver which has led to a marked change in my approach to the use of GIS. I work for the joint venture between Birmingham City Council (Europe's largest local authority) and Capita (IT services).

Prior to attending FOSS4G I was a heavy ESRI user, it was this event that lead me to realise it is the Open Source community that is actually pushing the boundaries of the industry. As a result I am undertaking a process of moving Birmingham City Council towards a mixed environment of ESRI and Open Source and hopefully further. In the current financial climate the argument is gaining weight.

As this is an ongoing process I am representing myself as opposed to being the official representative of both organisations. I do however act on behalf of Mappa Mercia (the West Midlands OpenStreetMap group) and the South Birmingham Linux users group.

I look forward to actively participating in the FOSS4G Conference and encouraging the open source geospatial community to join us in Nottingham for FOSS4G 2013.

Best wishes,

Stuart Lester