

From

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To  
The OSGeo Conference Committee

Dear Committee,

On behalf of the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences at Newcastle University UK, 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.

The School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences at Newcastle University UK is involved in numerous interdisciplinary research projects between geospatial engineers and other more traditional civil engineering groups, such as water resource engineering, geosciences, transport, environmental and geotechnical engineering. Many of the research projects undertaken within, have utilised free and open source software, whether that is during the research and investigation stages, or during the results and dissemination stages of a project. Alongside the world class research being undertaken within the School, there are also a number of undergraduate and postgraduate courses and programmes offered that can expose students to the world of free and open source software. Deciding to host the FOSS4G conference within the UK in 2013 will not only offer the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences at Newcastle University UK a chance to disseminate some of the aforementioned research that has utilised free and open source products and their application to real world problems, but it would also offer a great chance for students studying either undergraduate and postgraduate courses within the School to learn more about the application and use of free and open source software and tools outside of the academic domain.

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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Mills', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Jon Mills**, BSc PhD MRICS MInstCES FHEA  
Professor of Geomatic Engineering and Head of School