April 23, 2010

Mr.
Jeff McKenna
OSGEO Conference Committee

Dear Members.

In response to your call for bid to host the FOSS4G 2011 conference, we have prepared this letter of intent to put under your consideration the allocation of the conference to Latin America, with Colombia as host.

We will summarize the main aspects to consider in your decision, providing the requested information on the requirements, venues and our commitment to the success of the conference.

Colombia is a Latin American country which has positioned itself as one of the axes at regional level on issues related to geomatics, GIS and spatial data infrastructures. It host geospatial events recurrently and it is a point of reference in Latin American for free software application and its implementation in major projects of Geomatics at state and private sectors. Bogota is the capital city of Colombia and it is now considered the heart of this expansion of the free software culture at regional level.

We believe this is a great opportunity for Latin America to show its commitment to open source geospatial software and incidentally, to have the opportunity to learn more about the main players of OSGEO and expose our experience in development and geographic information technologies.

Currently we are forming a local chapter of OSGeo, and one of the key objectives of the conference will be its consolidation and thus reunite the scattered forces that exist at this time to provide more local chapters that support the growth of geospatial software in Latin America and position us on the global stage as a supplier of products and services of worldwide geomatics.

Bogotá has a wide selection of hotels and venues in which FOSS4G will have access to open spaces and a high level of services for the development of workshops and conferences.

Availability of hotel rooms is 8960 with an average night's accommodation of US$134 varying from US$ 72 to US$ 138.

In Bogota, there is a wide range of convention centers that meets the facilities required for the size of the conference. However, the organizing team believes that the "Centro de Convenciones Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada" and the "Centro de Ferias y Exposiciones Corferias" are far better suited to host the conference.

Centro de Convenciones Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada (www.corpocentros.com**)**
Location: http://maps.google.com/?t=h&ll=4.615449,-74.071434&spn=0.001898,0.003449&z=18

It has capacity for 2,500 people, with 15 rooms that can accommodate between 25 and 1600 participants. It has parking services and nursing. It has twelve booths for simultaneous interpretation, three giant projection backdrops and lighting and sound system that operates independently when the hall is divided.

Centro de Ferias y Exposiciones CORFERIAS (www.corferias.com**)**
Location: http://maps.google.com/?t=h&ll=4.630217,-74.09052&spn=0.003796,0.006899&z=17

Currently has 17 wards, with a total exhibition area covering 44,430 m2 and 15,000 m2 of outdoor display. It also has areas for additional services including Convention Center, registration of buyers, food court, parking, support offices, ATMs, information and consultation centers, warehouses of exhibitors, free zone, among others.

Both venues are less than 30 minutes from El Dorado International Airport.

Regarding to support for FOSS4G, we have consulted geospatial companies and public offices who have shown interest in accompanying the initiative and as a result of these have expressed their intention to support the event financially.

LOC is made up of geospatial professionals that are directly related to the producers and users of information and GIS software. Most of us have moved into the world of OSGeo from Mapserver, taking the opportunity to lead the appropriation of these tools and their implementation at national and international levels.

Liseth Rodriguez - Cadastral Engineer with specialization in Spatial Data Infrastructures with Open Source tools of the Polytechnic University of Madrid. Specialist in remote sensing applied to land management and earth observation. She is a member of the National Geographic Standards Committee (ICONTEC 028) for the past 10 years. She also is an expert in the implementation of catalog services of geographic metadata. She has been as an expert of the National Institute of Meteorology (IDEAM) in implementing the Environmental Information System for Colombia, specifically, the construction of national protocols for monitoring water and forests resources.

Ruben Mateus - Cadastral Engineer with specialization in GIS and remote sensing. Specialist in engineering project management. Expert in spatial data infrastructures and management of geographic information. He has led projects for publication and geospatial information available with free software. He has also been a lecturer at GSDI, DIVERSITAS, International Congress of Geomatics and Geomatics Week in Colombia. It has more than 10 years of experience in management and implementation of GIS. He has written several articles of geographic information associated with environment and territorial development.

Pilar Galindo - Systems engineer and specialist on software engineering with skills to lead and coordinate development projects in technology, graphic design and experience in web design alternatives to facilitate the publication and exchange of information. With capacity on interdisciplinary work, needs analysis, and experience in training processes. She has been in charge of coordinating logistics of various academic and socialization events. Se has capabilities to perform administrative processes regarding budgets, recruitment and monitoring processes.

Yesid Carrillo - Specialist in Geographic Information Systems and Geospatial open source evangelist. He has participated since 2000 as a user, translator, documenter and sometimes developer on projects such as MapServer, PostGIS, Geoserver and MS4W. He has been a lecturer at international events such as WALC 2006 and Campus Party 2009.

Sincerely,

Eduin Yesid Carrillo
Geomatics and
Geographic Information Systems Consulting Services