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GIS for Chicago water distribution system

Avineon, Inc., a successful provider of IT, geospatial, engineering, and program management solutions, announced the completion of a $5.3 million data conversion project for the City of Chicago Department of Water Management (CDWM). Avineon partnered with GIS Solutions, Inc., EKI, and Scarfe Consulting on the two-year effort to establish a complete, functional GIS system for the citywide water distribution system, accessible by city personnel. The GIS system now contains current and accurate water distribution system data converted from map and data sources such as atlas maps in paper and electronic formats, more than 23,000 service plat maps, and break and leak data in hand-written formats.

The CDWM manages the Chicago water distribution system. To facilitate better planning and management of this system, CDWM determined that a GIS database and set of applications was necessary. As a result, the CDWM selected GIS Solutions and its partners to expand the GIS development program to include the complete City of Chicago water system. The data conversion consisted of populating the current GIS database with water distribution data from various sources. The complete City of Chicago water system consists of approximately 4,200 miles of water main, 50,000 fire hydrants, and 50,000 valves within the 231 square mile area of the city limits. The GIS development consisted of the following four major tasks:

- Project Planning, Management, and Coordination;
- Water Distribution Data Conversion;
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control; and
- Digital and Hard Copy Data Delivery and Integration with Current Data.

Base Station On Moon Next Dream

Source: The Hindu, dated 10.5.2009

According to Dr.G.Madhavan Nair Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the Indian space mission's next dream is to set up a base station on the moon so that space vehicles for onward journey to the mars can be assembled and launched from there,

Addressing students at ISRO's Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) at their annual celebrations here on Friday, Dr. Nair asked them to have this dream in their mind. He asked them to think big, not just retrace the path already trekked by space science and technology, but look to where the future beckoned.

" You are going to be with the ISRO for 30 years and more. Think beyond what we have already done. We want you to think of air-breathing rockets, India having a base station on the moon, India emerging as a space power," he told them after describing how happy he was to see the IIST really coming of age, to become an institution that would in future drive the Indian space mission.

Earlier, the students gave a video narration of what all they had done in their institution during the course of the last one year (the celebrations were in connection with the second anniversary of the IIST).

Dr. Nair said the institution, which now had the former president, Abdul Kalam, as the Chancellor, was in the process of evolving a hitherto untried method of grooming scientists in the country. The students here were in the thick of what was happening in the ISRO and its organizations in the country. IIST Director B.N. Suresh said the institution would shift to a new campus at Valiyamala (in Thiruvananthapuram district) by August this year.

The IIST had introduced Ph.D. programmes in various disciplines of space science and postgraduate courses were being launched during the course of the year.

Chief Secretary K.J.Mathew, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Director K.Radha Krishnan and several top scientists from ISRO's other institutions attended the celebrations.