

Request for Information for GEOSS Web Portal Solutions

Proposals due: 8 February, 2007

This letter is a Request for Information (RFI) soliciting formal identification of capabilities for Web Portal solutions that provide access to GEOSS-affiliated resources. This RFI is the first of a three-phase process integrated with the GEOSS Clearinghouse efforts. This RFI identifies interest, capabilities, and requirements to be demonstrated in later phases. The second phase is a proof-of-concept evaluation, and the third phase is a Call for Participation in a Pilot. All three phases will be completed by September 2007. A detailed schedule is provided at the end of this note.

It is intended that one of these portal instances will be selected as the GEOSS home portal to be updated and hosted by the GEO Secretariat. Other instances are sought for deployment at GEO member and participating organization sites to provide custom access to GEOSS resources. No remuneration for the development or maintenance costs of Web Portal solutions is available. Offers are voluntary contributions by GEO Members and Participating Organisations.

Suggested portal functional requirements:

- provides access to GEOSS resources through standard interfaces using standards identified by GEO. These include but are not limited to ISO 23950, Open Geospatial Consortium Web Map Service (WMS), Open Geospatial Consortium Catalogue Service. Identification of additional anticipated standards, requirements, or capabilities will occur in RFI and POC phases.
- provides access to a user interface for search of the GEOSS Clearinghouse
- provides access to GEOSS-related registries (components registry, service registry, standards registry, special arrangements registry, best practices registry) using catalogue service interfaces
- availability for and having a low or minimal cost of installation and operation by GEO member and participating organization sites.
- readily customized by any organization for their domain interests and in support of Societal Benefit Area applications

Suggested portal operations and maintenance requirements:

- ensure maintenance of offered Portal software throughout the operational phase including the evolution of clients, interfaces, and system components
- documentation including design, operations, and maintenance
- support to other hosting organizations in customizing the Portal (optional)
- operations or support to operations throughout the operational phase Identify what levels of service you could provide. (optional)

To demonstrate interim progress, GEO Principals with components relevant to the GEOSS Clearinghouse and Portal presented demonstrations at the GEO-III Plenary, Bonn, 28-29 November 2006. Participation in the GEO-III Demo is not a requirement for responding to the Portal RFI. The CFP for the Pilot Phase (Initial Operating Capability) of the GEOSS Clearinghouse, Portal and Services will be based upon the RFI responses and POC results.

Due to the significant co-dependencies between the Web Portal and the GEOSS Clearinghouse, these two former 2006 Tasks have been consolidated into a new proposed task for the 2007-2009 Work Plan. It is intended that the RFI will lead to consolidated capabilities that will be coordinated and evaluated through the Proof of Concept (POC) and Call for Participation (CFP) phases of the Clearinghouse and Web Portal in early- to mid-2007.

Consistent with the GEOSS Architecture principles, open standards have been identified that are relevant to the Portal and Clearinghouse. The Proof of Concept Phase (POC) will develop and refine a common set of requirements for both Clearinghouse and Web Portal capabilities. The Clearinghouse RFI contains a draft architecture for the GEOSS Clearinghouse that is especially relevant to this task:

http://www.earthobservations.org/docs/RFI_GEOSS_Clearinghouse_13.10.2006.pdf

Organizations should note that the CFP phase will seek contributors who will provide operational support of the GEOSS Portal - without funding from GEO Secretariat. The CFP will also seek portal solutions from GEO members and participating organizations that may be used at any site.

This RFI is requesting brief written proposals sent electronically to Douglas Nebert (ddnebert@usgs.gov) that identify solutions to be offered for inclusion and consideration in the combined Clearinghouse/Web Portal proof-of-concept phase or Call for Participation Phase. Brief proposals shall describe these aspects of the offering: 1) how it will support the functional requirements, 2) the maturity and existing deployments, 3) any capabilities and specifications beyond those described above, and 4) how it will be supported and maintained by the offering organization.

RFI Responses are due on February 8, 2007.

Anticipated Schedule for GEO Task AR-07-02 (Interface Implementations):

Q4 2006	GEOSS Clearinghouse RFI (AR-06-05) – Complete, 10 response, telecon 30 January
Jan 2007	Issue a GEOSS Web Portal RFI (DA-06-07),
8 Feb 2007	Portal RFI responses due
Q1 2007	Conduct Proof of Concept phase – incorporated testing of Clearinghouse and Portal RFI Responses to refine GEOSS architecture – results to AR-07-01 and CFP
Q1 2007	Plan GEOSS Architecture Pilot Phase - coordinate with AR-07-01, SBA and sponsors; develop Pilot Phase Call for Participation (CFP) document.
Feb/March 2007	Release CFP
March/April 2007	Deadline for CFP responses
Apr/May 2007	Pilot Phase Kickoff Meeting
Q2 & Q3 2007	Incorporate CFP responses into GEOSS Pilot Architecture; conduct Test and Integration Events (TIEs) between components; develop multi-component demonstration scenario in conjunction with SBAs.
Sept/Oct 2007	Demonstrate and record GEOSS Pilot Architecture Scenario
Q4 2007	Begin Persistent Capability for GEOSS Pilot Architecture and potential Demonstration at November GEO-IV Summit