

**OGC Statement to EO Summit
30 November 2007
Cape Town, South Africa.**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

My name is George Percivall.

I serve as the Chief Architect of the Open Geospatial Consortium.

OGC is an international, not-for-profit consortium of 350 government agencies, commercial companies, research organizations, and universities.

The OGC member organizations participate in a consensus process to develop publicly available standards for geospatial interoperability.

OGC maintains cooperative agreements with other standards bodies like ISO to harmonize our efforts

The role of open standards for GEOSS interoperability arrangements was firmly established in the GEOSS 10 Year Implementation Plan.

Open standards enable interoperability for broad access to Earth Observations for the system of systems approach of GEOSS.

OGC has contributed to several GEO activities including the pilot task for the GEO Web Portal and a Series of Workshops led by IEEE, ISPRS and OGC.

The workshop series has already been well described by the IEEE delegate.

Allow me to speak of the exciting developments of the Architecture Implementation Pilot for the GEOSS information infrastructure.

We have applied OGCs interoperability processes to lead this core task of the GEO Architecture and Data Committee.

This GEO Architecture Implementation Pilot task deployed core architecture elements including three GEO Web Portals and three Clearinghouses that together allow users to discover and access earth observations through tens of network Services.

The Architecture Pilot task defined a development process suitable to GEO.

A Call for Participation in the Pilot resulted in response from 120 organizations.

An early achievement of the pilot is the integrated operations of the GEO portals, the GEOSS registry provided by the United State, and tens of web services from GEO members.

This capability was demonstrated for seven societal benefit areas.

These results were displayed by multiple organizations in the exhibit hall and are available on the web for all as a part of the initial operating capability of GEOSS.

The Architecture Implementation Pilot has advanced the state of interoperability for earth observations through the broad international participation that only the GEO organization provides.

There is high interest and momentum to continue to grow implementation of GEOSS.

Thank you for your attention.