

# COLLABORATIVE WEB PLATFORM ENABLES COMMUNITY AND CROWD SOURCING IN FRANCE

Collaboration was again a key focus for France's National Institute for Geographic Information and Forestry (IGN) in 2015.

In recognition of the on-going move towards reference data created by associating authoritative and contributed information, IGN has developed a collaborative web platform. This provides a tool for delivering its strategy of developing external contributions to reduce the time between receiving information alerts, integrating and updating its database, and onward distribution to users.

By allowing information to be superimposed on existing IGN data, the platform enables contributors to handle and capture new features directly within its internal infrastructure. The platform can be used for community sourcing from trusted partners as well as crowd sourcing. Changes submitted by both are subject to review by IGN surveyors before being accepted.

Community sourcing partners already use IGN data and are interested in its quality, completeness and up-to-dateness. They are mainly reference organisations with official responsibilities, such as municipalities, and as a result make a significant contribution to data collection.

Occasional contributions (crowd sourcing) can consist of sketches or textual descriptions. Changes may also be captured through the IGN collaborative platform. For traceability, individual contributors are, as far as possible, identified through a login. These contributions are processed individually and reviewed by a IGN surveyor.

Developing innovation and research is one of IGN strategic priorities to meet the challenges of an evolving market while also contributing to public policies related to digital technologies, economic development, and modernisation. Consequently, IGN has enhanced its approach to open innovation to strengthen its ability to meet user needs and increase its performance.



The value of its research and development activities was further realised during the year with the successful launch of Geocube. This autonomous and ultra-compact GPS receiver developed by the IGN Instrumentation Laboratory enables the measurement of positions and displacements with sub-centimetric accuracy over long periods. A partnership with the SME Kyla resulted in the first Geocube products being brought to market in 2015.

The project incubator IGNfab also helps SMEs to develop innovative products and services using IGN data. Two projects are currently taking place. The first, an ultra-light photogrammetric camera developed by the IGN Instrumentation Laboratory, is being developed for the market by the Delair-tech drone manufacturer. The second, the In Sun We Trust ([www.insunwetrust.solar](http://www.insunwetrust.solar)) website will provide users with a precise assessment of the amount of solar power they could produce by installing roof panels. This project uses IGN topographic data and sunlight data to calculate close and distant shades.

