

France

Reference datasets in France respond to public policy needs

Delivering reference databases to respond to the needs of public policies is a key activity for France's National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information (IGN).

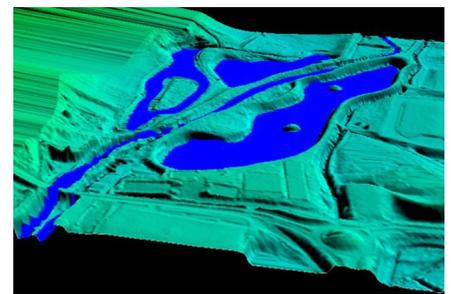
This reflects user demand for less generic reference data and a requirement for more specific reference databases.

In 2017, the productivity of the Land Parcel Information System greatly improved and benefited from the Ministry of Agriculture's confidence. IGN also worked in partnership with the Tax Administration, to approve the new technical basis for the convergence of the cadastral vector map and the large-scale topographic database, and the Road Safety Administration, with whom it setup the national database of reference points of the road network. The latter has now ordered IGN to setup an ambitious information system to map speed limits. In terms of future development of altimetry data, IGN has tested High Density Lidar data.

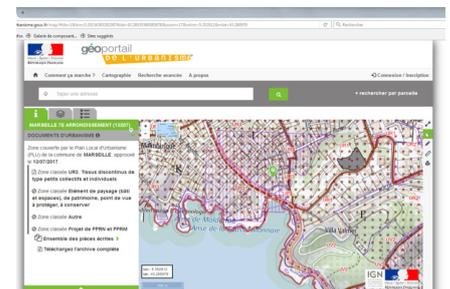
IGN's public partnerships also extend to the fields of space and geoportals and in 2017 it signed several European contracts related to space geodesy for Galileo. In addition, it was entrusted to provide new quality evaluation services for industrial production related to Sentinel data and a comparative study of Digital Terrain Model (DTM) quality by the European Space Agency.

Visits to the IGN Geoportal, which features in 10 major governmental websites and now incorporates a 3D viewer, have increased. To position the Geoportal at the heart of the government information system, the infrastructure is being migrated to the inter-ministerial cloud web-hosting service. This will foster mutualisation of public geographic data and services. In this spirit, the Urban Planning Geoportal (geoportail-urbanisme.gouv.fr) gained momentum in 2017 by incorporating more than 3,000 urban planning documents.

The IGNfab incubator continues to foster start-up innovation – from the development of a hydraulic simulation tool based on the IGN iTowns 3D platform to a platform enabling forest operators to find new wood resources. In addition, the Minecraft on-demand service (minecraft.ign.fr), which combines video games and 3D cartography to generate maps of the user's favourite places, received an award at the 2017 International Cartographic Conference.



3D representation for a hydrology study by the Hydratec start-up



The Urban Planning Geoportal



Producing the national Land Parcel Information System (LPIS)



The Minecraft on-demand service