A pioneering online services platform developed by the Department of Lands and Surveys has received one of Cyprus’ highest distinctions.

The DLS Portal was named best Public Sector Innovation in the Federation of Employers and Industrialists (OEB) Innovation and Research Awards 2018.

The new online platform is a focal point in the history of the modern cadastre and the culmination of a long time effort of the Department to provide e-services to citizens via the Internet. It provides access to the Department’s information and enables citizens to submit online applications, export data and catalogues, purchase maps, subscribe to services, and more.

The DLS Portal is the first and largest online electronic library of geographic and descriptive information in Cyprus, and is considered to be one of the best European cadastral and geospatial information providers. At the same time, it is a model for the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive and collects a multitude of geospatial data from various departments and services of the State. As the most important e-Government service offered by Cyprus, it reflects the implementation of the new strategy adopted by the Department of Lands and Surveys in the fields of geospatial technology and IT which aim to stimulate and improve the economy.

Additional benefits include:

- Market and economy development
- Strengthening the real estate market and attracting new buyers
- Saving resources and time for the Department and citizens
- Improving public service, transparency, reducing bureaucracy and promoting equal treatment
- Strengthening the interoperability of data between IT applications
- Expanding Open Data
- Modernization of the operational functions of the Department

The award was presented to the Director of the Department, Mr Andreas Socratous by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Nikos Anastasiadis at a ceremony in November 2018. The event was attended by the Honorable Minister of Interior, Mr Constantinos Petrides and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior, Mr Kypros Kyprianou, Ministers, MPs, politicians and other state officials.