



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments Receives Special Achievement Award for Exceptional Use of GIS Technology

San Diego, California—July 16, 2009—The [Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional County of Governments](#) (OKI) received a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2009 ESRI International User Conference (ESRI UC) in San Diego, California. The organization received this honor for its vision, leadership, and innovative use of ESRI's geographic information system (GIS) technology. OKI was selected from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide and recognized during today's SAG awards ceremony for making extraordinary contributions to our global society.

OKI uses GIS to provide decision support to many of its regional programs, projects, and initiatives. One such initiative is the OKI Travel Demand Model, where GIS is used for the storage and maintenance of the highway network and street centerline database for the region. Applying GIS, OKI has created a regional travel demand model that helps with local improvements such as “signalization,” new intersection turn lanes, the integration of pedestrians and transit, and road improvements. The organization has also developed Web-based applications that allow easy data visualization, which gives decision makers greater insight not only into data holdings but to better examine the impact of decision making. Plus, traffic simulation has been integrated with GIS and the travel demand model, allowing OKI the benefit of seeing traffic forecast in the simulation environment.

“We are extremely proud of the work our GIS department has accomplished and honored to receive such a selective award,” says OKI Board President and Campbell County Judge Executive Steve Pendery. “The vast range of projects undertaken by our GIS department deserves recognition.”

Established in 2002, OKI's GIS department does not just focus on highways and roads, but also helps communities develop land use plans, capital improvement planning, economic development, greenspace strategies, and bring to light infrastructure concerns. The organization plans to continue to develop GIS applications and datasets that support regional initiatives in the greater Cincinnati area.

"Our world is being challenged by rapid change," says Jack Dangermond, ESRI president. "GIS technology is increasingly being deployed as a way to understand the issues facing our society. At ESRI, we are always extremely impressed with the work of our users and want to recognize their efforts with our Special Achievement in GIS Award. Their work is a great example of using GIS to improve our world."

GIS combines computer hardware, software, and data to collect, manage, and analyze geographic information. Virtually any information can be linked to a geographic location, helping people see that information as part of a complete picture. With GIS, users can view relationships, processes, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts. Whether they are selecting routes to transport ethanol or studying landslides, GIS helps them see how the world works and changes. More than one million people across the globe rely on GIS to solve problems and make better decisions by thinking and planning geographically.

Other organizations being honored at the [ESRI UC](#) include the Artesia Water Company, Montana State Library, NASA Langley Research Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Yosemite National Park, City of Madrid, DHL Express, Polytechnic of Namibia, Victoria Police in Australia, and the Grammar School at Leeds.

To learn more about the 2009 SAG Award winners and to view their photos and project descriptions and images, visit www.esri.com/sag. More information about ESRI and its GIS solutions can be found at www.esri.com.

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About ESRI

Since 1969, ESRI has been giving customers around the world the power to think and plan geographically. The market leader in GIS, ESRI software is used in more than 300,000 organizations worldwide including each of the 200 largest cities in the United States, most national governments, more than two-thirds of Fortune 500 companies, and more than 7,000 colleges and universities. ESRI applications, running on more than one million desktops and thousands of Web and enterprise servers, provide the backbone for the world's mapping and spatial analysis. ESRI is the only vendor that provides complete technical solutions for desktop, mobile, server, and Internet platforms. Visit us at www.esri.com.

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