

# Media Release

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## SAG Award Winners Announced

Three Australian organisations have been announced as winners of Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Awards, presented at the recent ESRI User Conference in San Diego, California.

Special Achievement in GIS Awards are given each year at the ESRI User Conference to recognise the extraordinary accomplishments of GIS users around the world, with WestNet Energy AlintaGas Networks, Thiess Pty Ltd and the Royal Australian Navy Directorate of Oceanography and Meteorology all recipients of an award.

A SAG Award was presented to WestNet Energy AlintaGas Networks for their innovative use of the latest in GIS and IT technologies in rebuilding their Gas Network Information System (GNIS), resulting in increased efficiency and effectiveness of spatial and business systems within the organisation.

The project was a major reengineering of the substance and structure of their GIS landscape included the replacement of all core components and how those components interfaced to the world. This included:

- Flexible Web Based client replacing restrictive local installed Client
- Flexible Services (SOA) replacing tightly coupled Peer-to-peer interfacing
- Web delivered GIS editing
- Processing at national data centre
- Software upgrades
- Internet version enabling access any time any place

Asset View, based on ESRI Australia's location intelligence gateway technology, is an intranet portal application which allows WestNet Infrastructure Group's staff to easily access and interrogate information relating to the gas network. Uniquely, Asset View leverages off web services to provide additional capabilities, including:

- Asset location via a graphic and textual searches;
- Connection to SAP
- Update of Asset information in GNIS and SAP
- Custom network tracing;
- Production of standard PDF maps suitable for applications like Dial Before You Dig.

For the Gas Network operator, GNIS is the front end into the businesses Works and Asset Management system SAP. Behind the scenes, GNIS leverages off the service orientated architecture (SOA) to provide additional capabilities, including:

- Automated New Connection Process with integration into their Market Gateway, Metering and Billing, Works and Asset Management and contractor management systems



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*Putting knowledge into place*

- Upgrades to Works and Asset management (SAP) and Metering and Billing(Hansen) to proceed independent of GNIS

Thiess Pty Ltd was another recipient of a SAG Award. Thiess implemented an innovative multi-staged GIS strategy for their EastLink project, Australia's largest road construction project to date. With limited resources, the main focus of GIS services targeted the requirements of the environment, community, property, safety, completions and the tunnels groups, with key members of the project team trained and equipped to use the GIS applications.

The benefits Thiess achieved by incorporating GIS into the EastLink project have been extensive, and in many instances, measurable through improvement in productivity and cost savings. EastLink staff now have easy access to accurate project information, ease of map production has resulted in a 50% increase in productivity and efficiency, the need to outsource GIS services have been omitted, with data automation and validation reducing data entry and increasing data accuracy. The time to locate and collate information in the system is now 80% faster, with the reporting capabilities and integration with other corporate systems providing project staff with a powerful management tool.

Thiess staff with very little or no GIS experience are now familiar with using the GIS applications, and a large majority of the workforce now recognise the importance of GIS. EastLink and Thiess John Holland will continue to develop their GIS capabilities with the further integration of business systems and services with the objective of enabling easy access to data.

The Royal Australian Navy Directorate of Oceanography & Meteorology (DOM), a component of the Royal Australian Navy's Hydrographic Force Element Group, was another SAG Award recipient. The award recognised DOM's contribution to GIS science through the breadth and depth of their work, their willingness to share knowledge and their participation in the global location intelligence community.

The mission of DOM is to acquire, manage, produce and distribute meteorological and oceanographic (METOC) information in order to support the Australian Defence Force and national infrastructure, and have made extensive use of GIS for many years to assist in accomplishing this mission.

A small team of developers at DOM have created a wide range of ArcGIS-based tools for analysing, disseminating and visualising METOC information. These tools are highly innovative and take many forms. METOC information is demanding to work with since it is high volume, time dynamic; processor intensive and typically global in extent. DOM has contributed to the science of GIS by demonstrating the many ways that METOC information can be integrated with GIS into an enterprise context.

Their work has been made visible through the willingness of DOM management to share their knowledge, with a long history of contributing papers to the ESRI International User Conference and providing stories to the 'GIS in the Defence and Intelligence Community' publications.

"I'd like to congratulate the three Special Achievement in GIS Award winners for their great achievements in the application of location intelligence, and hope they inspire other organisations to use GIS in innovative ways" said Brett Bundock, Managing Director, ESRI Australia.

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