

LA Imagery Consortium

Report on Site Visit of May 11, 2006

GIS Manager Nick Franchino (along with other staff in the LA County Department of Regional Planning) was eager to provide us with a great deal of information – even more than we requested. He provided us with many files – a PowerPoint presentation, two RFP's that were issued, a sample contract (agreement), a spreadsheet of participating cities with their size and population, a financing spreadsheet, a summary of data formats, a listing of the deliverables' file sizes (over 7 terabytes of data in total!!) and more. He also sent to us the MOU used by the Consortium required for agencies to participate, a Product Specifications Summary (attached to this report), and a schedule of future data acquisitions.

In general, there is some complexity to the administration of this project – but the savings undoubtedly make it worthwhile. The formula for allocating costs among the participants is not simple and some flexibility in the cost sharing has been allowed to permit some agencies to get involved. A core group of committed participants was required to make the project fly initially. The County was committed to make it happen and took on the risk – knowing that at least the core group would participate. They have continued to get additional agencies to participate. Agencies that join in now reduce the amount of money that will be required to be raised for the next image acquisition.

1. Consultants under contract to provide the deliverables:
 - a. InfoTech (formerly Vargis) (LIDAR plus ortho imagery, true color and near infrared – collected with Z/I DMC camera)
 - b. Pictometry (oblique imagery)
 - c. Dewberry and Davis (Independent QC/QA of LIDAR and ortho-imagery with summary report, distribution of products to agencies in the consortium)
2. Project Area:
 - a. 2900 sq miles – the urban area
 - b. 1100 sq miles – the National Forest lands
 - c. 68 sq miles – Catalina Island
3. Deliverables:

Urban areas (2900 sq miles) and Catalina (68 sq miles)

 - LIDAR DTM
 - 2' Elevation Contours (from LIDAR supplemented with breaklines)
 - True color digital orthophotos with 4 in. ground resolution to meet ASPRS map accuracy standards for 1" = 100' map scale with an RMS error of 1.0 ft.
 - Oblique imagery (Pictometry) (4175 Community sectors and 2437 Neighborhood sectors)
 - A QC/AQ report created by an independent consultant.

National Forest Areas

 - 4' Elevation Contours (generated from existing DTM)
 - True color and CIR digital orthophotos with 1-foot. ground resolution (orthorectified with existing DTM)
 - A QC/AQ report created by an independent consultant.
4. Time Frame (selected dates):
 - a. Project started: late 2004 with the RFP announced on June 2005; QA/QC RFP issues in January 2006.

- b. Project completion: late summer 2006.
- 5. Cost Summary:
 - a. \$5.5 million for urban area
 - b. \$190,000 for National Forest
 - c. \$120,000 for Catalina
 - d. Cost allocations per participant based on 3 factors: area, population and “departmental” level of use (large departments that will use the imagery the most pay more); some flexibility in allocating costs.
- 6. Memorandum Of Understanding (salient points)
 - a. Defined a maximum contribution for each partner
 - b. Created a trust account into which all agencies paid
 - c. Data are licensed for 2 years
 - i. unlimited internal use
 - ii. no restrictions on sharing data with consultants for specific projects
 - iii. agencies can publish imagery on web but at no better than 1’ resolution
- 7. Letter of Intent (I lost my copy of this?)
- 8. Future acquisition – every 3 years.
 - a. Once license is expired, can continue to use data internally
 - b. Renewal will permit agency to receive updated imagery – expected to be about 60% of the original cost.
- 9. Participants (as of April 2006)
 - a. 29 Cities
 - b. 7 County Agencies
 - c. 4 Others: Caltrans, LA Clearinghouse, Catalina Conservancy and USGS
 - i. USGS participation made possible based on agreement to let them offer free redistribution of 2-foot imagery product.

Cost Details:

Product	Urban Area	National Forest area	Catalina
LIDAR/DTM	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$33,000
Contours	\$200,000	\$0	\$8,000
Color ortho imagery	\$2,550,000	\$110,000	\$31,000
Oblique imagery	\$1,430,000	\$70,000	\$38,000
QA/QC and Distribution	\$150,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Totals	\$5,530,000	\$190,000	\$120,000