

Press release of the deegree initiative

26 November 2012 - The deegree project has taken a big step towards a community-driven initiative.

Openness in a open source initiative means not only access to the source code for everyone. It means also openness for input and participation from the community of users and developers. To strengthen the openness of the deegree initiative, the key members of the initiative met for the "deegree community event" on October 13th in Bonn.

Twenty-five experts discussed the current state and future development of the project. With its open space approach the event focused on all aspects of community building. As a result the participants share a common view on the overall process and the more concrete steps to take. "It is crucial that all stakeholders understand, either users or developers, that we are currently redesigning the organisational part of deegree - and that everybody can play a role in this!" said Herman Assink, CEO of IDgis and member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) which hosted the event.

For more than ten years the deegree project has been maintained and managed by the Bonn-based geospatial IT company lat/lon. As a consequence of successful growth and development the OSGeo [1] incubation in 2010 was the first step towards more open structures. Today, representatives of already three companies and a University form the PSC and the Technical Management Committee (TMC). "deegree community space clearly showed that there is a huge interest in deegree, especially from developers and enterprises. Now we have to focus on a common vision for future development, a solid base infrastructure and effective procedures to empower and strengthen the evolving community." said Jens Fitzke, PSC member and lat/lon CEO. This includes a renewal of the main technical services, like the code and artefact repositories along with the issue trackers, to name the most important infrastructure components. As a means to channel the communication and bring together the different stakeholders within the community the deegree-users mailing list has been declared to be the main communication medium [2].

All participants further agreed to adopt the term "initiative" - in place of "project" - to better expose the character of an ongoing activity. More practically they committed themselves to document the event's result in the initiative's wiki [3] and to continuously develop this documentation in a community process. A follow-up event of the same kind is envisaged for 2013.

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References:

[1] <http://www.osgeo.org/>

[2] <http://deegree.org/Community>

[3] <http://wiki.deegree.org/deegreeWiki/deegreeCommunitySpace2012>

About deegree

deegree is open source, state-of-the-art software for spatial data infrastructures and the geospatial web. deegree includes components for geospatial data management, including data access, visualization, discovery and security. Open standards are at the heart of deegree. The software is built on the standards of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and the ISO Technical Committee 211.