



# SPATIAL INFORMATION DAY 2011

and the

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPATIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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### Spatial Information Day 2011 Abstract

**Title:** Wicked Problems – Geospatial Solutions

**Session:** 11

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**Abstract:**

As Professor Keith Grint has described in his work “Wicked Problems and Clumsy Solutions” beyond crises and complex yet tame resolvable problems there are a range of challenging human problems for which there are no clear immediate solutions. For such problems, a flexible form of leadership is required which brings together different organizations, information and problem solving styles into a sharing environment in which progressive, iterative strategies to mitigate the challenge can be evolved. Ongoing challenges, including insurgency, terrorism and drugs, pose such wicked problems which can undermine the stability and security of a nation. In developing US Geospatial Intelligence capabilities the director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency- Leticia Long -has identified the importance of detailed understanding of the human activities that occur in relationship to the Geography of a nation. Much of this has been influenced by the counter insurgency and counter narcotics experiences of General Petraeus in Afghanistan as articulated by Australia’s David Kilcullen in his writing on the Accidental Guerrilla syndrome. Part of the solution process is to establish a visual Geospatial Intelligence platform upon which information from many sources can be collated, fused and importantly shared. Commercial providers are developing a range of capabilities that contribute to the establishment of this Geospatial platform. In this presentation DigitalGlobe aims to demonstrate some of the ways it is exploiting its highly agile, multispectral constellation and the application of high performance computing to provide understanding of illicit drug crop production. The aim is to provide decision support to planners at the policy and strategy level and direct support to those on the ground tactically countering the issue. The context is for commercial imagery to take on more of the processing of data to enable those dealing with wicked challenges to focus on the critical task of developing effective iterative solutions.

