Esri India Participates @ GeoIntelligence India 2014

The eighth edition of GeoIntelligence India was held on 12-13 June at JW Marriott, Aerocity, New Delhi. The conference witnessed to a gathering of 500 + delegates from across industries coming together to engage in high-level discussions on issues pertaining to geospatial intelligence in matters of defence and national security. The visionary addresses, thematic sessions, networking opportunities and state-of-the-art exhibition proved to be a robust platform to further our objective of raising the profile of geospatial intelligence and presented beneficial takeaways for our delegates.

Esri was the Platinum Sponsors at the GeointelligenceIndia 2014. There was full-fledged team representing Defence vertical both from Esri and Esri India at the Conference and Exhibition to discuss and interact with the officers from all the three Armed Forces demonstrating the latest trends in the Esri GIS technology in the Defence domain.

Delivering the inaugural address, Gen Bikram Singh, Chief of Army Staff, Indian Army, said that defence industry needs to come up with innovative and economical solutions which cater to the complexity of today's warfare and raised the issue of interoperability among the three forces.His views were supported by Lt Gen (Dr) Prakash Menon (Retd), who spoke about the need of interoperability among the defence armed forces and CAPFs in the country.AG Apte, Chairman, NTRO, raised an interesting point when he said that 'geoint itself can become a platform for data fusion and analysis.' Building the need for effective cyber defence capabilities.

The Plenary session opened with the theme: Surveillance in Digital Battelfield chaired by Lt. Gen Anil Bhalla, DG DIA &

DCIDS. This session talked about empowering the armed forces with advanced geospatial intelligence. The frontline soldier and commander have specific information needs but without overwhelming technology load and information over load".

The second Plenary Session focused on 'Converting Geographic Coordinates to Navigation Coordinates' and was chaired by VAdm SK Jha, Chief Hydrographer, NHO. Speaking on the occasion behalf of Esri, John Day, Director, Global-Defence, said "National security is a complex endeavour. The solution has to be unity of action and providing a common enterprise platform. He also shared his vision of empowering users by increasing collaboration, agility and responsiveness. Day explained the need for seamless, online foundation data for all environments. "GIS is an integrating framework for all missions," he added.

Border Security has been a priority for any nation. Addressing the session Brett Dixon, Business Manager, Esri, spoke how the applications of GIS has been significant in border security operations. "Actionable Intelligence should be provided to those who need it," said Dixon. "The need for simple, effective and timely solutions is crucial," he added. Craig gave a brief demo on border security applications along with the talk. Disaster Management has been the hot subject as always , the specific track on the subject during the conference talked about the recent Uttarakhandwhich India witnessed about a year ago is still fresh in people's minds. The session focused on why disaster preparedness is important for the country. It is not that we do not have basic information for disaster reduction like technical studies, geographical data, etc. This information does exist, but is not readily available to local authorities and other stakeholders. Speaking on the occasion Richard Sundaram, Industry Head – Defence and Emergency management gave the industry perspective how Esri GIS technology can be useful and effective for disaster management.

Esri displayed its latest technology on defence solutions by participating at the state-of-art exhibitions during the GeointelligenceIndia. The delegates showed great interest by visiting our booth and trying to understand the niche behind the latest ArcGIS technology that can be used for various defence solutions be it Battle Management System, Military Operations, etc