

Speaker Presentation Profile

1. PRESENTER'S INFORMATION

FULL NAME	Marius Van der Merwe		
DESIGNATION	Director		
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2. PRESENTER'S BACKGROUND

Marius is a Director at AfriGIS responsible for new business development and client management of public sector projects. Over the past 8 years he has been involved in various major spatial or GIS projects in various government departments. Marius is a member of the Geo-Information Society of South Africa (GISSA) and he is a key member of the StanSA SC71E technical working group for development of the SANS1883 – Standard for Addresses in South Africa. Marius is also a registered member of the Institute of Directors. He holds a BEng (Civil Engineering) from the University of Pretoria and a MBA from the University of Cape Town.

3. TITLE/TOPIC OF PRESENTATION

Location Intelligence for the Citizens

4. PRESENTATION SYNOPSIS/ABSTRACT

The focus of the presentation will be to outline examples and challenges to government departments to ensure that the investment in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data and technology will make a difference in the lives of ordinary citizens.

The major challenge is that each year government spends a huge budget on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data and technology but the application of the technology sometimes fail to make a difference in the day to day life of citizens. Historically and to a large extent still today, GIS and spatial data is seen as a planning, monitoring and decision making tool – but there is also a role for this technology to play as information tool. There are also challenges of skill shortages, accurate and trustworthy spatial datasets, lack of standards and application thereof, lack of sharing of data, collection and maintenance of spatial datasets, etc.

The proposed solution is one that should be citizen centric. There are many examples in South Africa and abroad of applications using GIS and spatial data that improves the lives of ordinary citizens. For example location based services on a normal cell phone can empower every citizen to find government services in their area like a police station, social grant pay point, etc.

Key points for discussion include:

- How best can the private sector and government partner for the development of location based intelligence applications?
- How can the obstacles in government be addressed and who's responsible for driving this change?