

**COGO Report Card –
Important Information for the Surveying Profession**

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March 2019 – Revised February 2020

This is another observation from “the Crow’s Nest.” The January 2019 Benchmarks article was written from the “Crow’s Nest” perspective and contains information about pending publication of the spatial data infrastructure Report Card. NSPS recently sent out a link to the second “Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure” published by the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO). The purpose of this item is to remind surveyors that the second Report Card is now available and that the report contains important information for the surveying profession.

The following links were “good” when the article was first written – they have been changed – see below.

Press release: http://cogo.pro/uploads/COGO_ReportCard_PressRelease_20190204.pdf

Actual report card: <http://cogo.pro/uploads/2018COGOReportCard.pdf>

Power point: http://cogo.pro/uploads/COGO_2018_Report_Card_slides_for_publicity_20190204.pdf

Utube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UvO96ZrZA&feature=youtu.be> (Still good?)

COGO web site is: http://cogo.pro/Home_Page.html

The COGO Home Page link now is <https://cogo.pro/> and the link to the 2018 Report Card is <https://cogo.pro/report-card/>

If you scroll down on the report card page, you will find options to download the following:

- A pdf file of a Press Release describing the 2018 COGO Report Card
- An actual pdf copy of the 2018 Report Card
- A pdf file of a slide show presentation describing the 2018 Report Card
- An actual pdf copy of the 2015 Report Card

The first geospatial report card was published in 2015 and provides a “benchmark” from which future progress is compared. The second report provides information on incremental improvements, but it also contains an additional “theme” and it elaborates more on the evaluation process.

Each Benchmarks reader is encouraged to read, digest, evaluate, and discuss information in the Report Card. I have studied, but not mastered, the entire report. There is much to learn from the information contained in the report, but I am also disappointed by what is not included in the report – that is the role of an integrated 3-D geospatial data model in the use of 3-D digital spatial data. I corresponded with some of the leaders responsible for preparing the report and encouraged them to include consideration of the global spatial data model (GSDM) as being an appropriate component of what the future of spatial data could be. Of course, my input also included the suggestion that the surveying profession is well positioned to rise to the challenges associated with implementing an integrated spatial data model.

I’ll provide more details and arguments supporting adoption of the GSDM in subsequent articles. But, for now, this is a “heads up” notice to the surveying profession that the COGO Report Card documents the underlying framework on which spatial data activities will be prefaced. My aspiration is that surveyors will be proactive in recognizing and taking advantage of the opportunities.