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ISPRS GEOSPATIAL WEEK 2025 DUBAI

PRESS BRIEF

DAY 1

Geospatial Week 2025 Opens with a Celebration of Science, Sustainability, and Global Collaboration

Dubai, 7 April 2025 — Geospatial Week 2025 (GSW 2025) officially commenced today at the Dubai World Trade Centre, hosted by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in collaboration with the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). Held under the theme “Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing for a Better Tomorrow,” the five-day global event is bringing together leading voices in geospatial science, technology, and innovation.

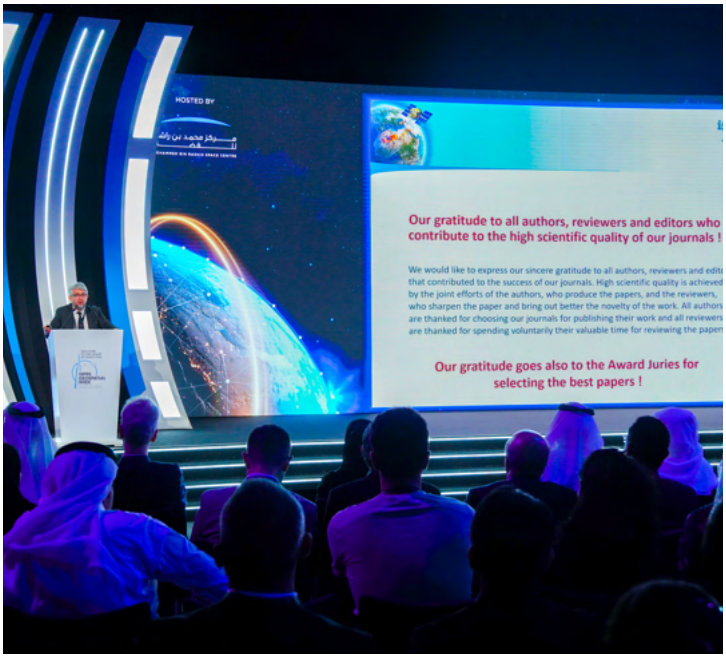
The opening ceremony was a visual tribute to the spirit of discovery, with a traditional and cultural performances along with a staged artistic journey into the world of photogrammetry and remote sensing.

In his welcome address, H.E. Salem Humaid AlMarri, Director General, MBRSC, acknowledged the valuable contributions of professionals from the public and private sectors, universities, and international bodies, underscoring the UAE’s commitment to advancing geospatial sciences and partnerships. Lena Halounova, ISPRS President, spoke about the vital role of collaboration in expanding the global geospatial community and celebrated the scientific excellence on display during the event.

From the Federal Geographic Information Centre, the strategic sponsor for the event, H.E. Hamed Khamis Al Kaabi, Director General, highlighted the UAE's National Geospatial Information Policy, setting the tone for greater regional and global alignment in data governance and innovation.

Dr. Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Sayal, ISPRS Regional Representative for Arab States and President of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information – the anchor sponsor, shared insights on the growing momentum of geospatial sciences in the region and their implications for sustainable development.

The opening concluded with the organisers announcing the best paper awards across ISPRS journals, while young scientists were presented with TIF Travel Grant certificates.



“We are gathered here together with a shared mission: to drive innovation, expand our scientific horizons, and build a better tomorrow through the power of geospatial technologies.
In an age where data shapes decisions and insights steer action, the tools we explore and refine during this event have real-world impact—from disaster response and climate monitoring to urban planning and sustainable development.
And there is no better place to host these conversations than right here, in Dubai—a city that has grown from a simple trading port to a global centre for science and innovation.”

H.E. Salem Humaid Al Marri
Director General
Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre

“ISPRS, while established long ago, has evolved significantly, particularly when we expanded our scope to include remote sensing. Here in Dubai, remote sensing is intimately connected to our host organisation, MBRSC. I must express our thanks for organising this event.
The term "geospatial" is relatively new, emerging from our science's dedication to studying the Earth and its people. We examine how humans interact with our planet, considering both natural conditions and human activities. These activities hold tremendous importance as we study changes and developments that give us crucial information about our world.”

Lena Halounova
ISPRS President

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to MBRSC for hosting this prestigious event. Their visionary leadership and commitment to advancing space exploration and innovation are commendable. I would also like to thank all speakers and exhibitors, whose contributions and expertise are central to the success of this forum. This year's theme, 'Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing for a Better Tomorrow', reflects our mission. We are not merely active participants but transformative agents essential for understanding our world, enabling precise decision-making and fostering sustainable development.”

H.E. Hamed Khamis Al Kaabi
Director General
Federal Geographic Information Centre

“I am proud to see this important event in our region for the second time in the last two years—first in Egypt and now in the UAE. This reflects the growing role of the Middle East and Arab states in the geospatial arena. The General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information of Saudi Arabia has played a key role in advancing the geospatial sector not only within the Kingdom but across the Arab world. Our mission is deeply rooted in development and expansion, ensuring geospatial technologies become an integral part of our digital transformation and economic growth strategies.”

H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Sayal
ISPRS Regional Representative for Arab States
President of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information

Keynote Sessions:

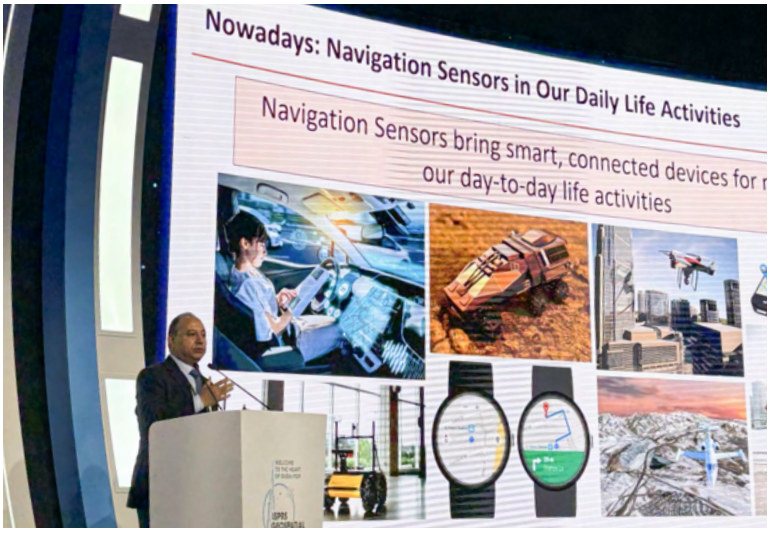
Frontiers of Geospatial Science

The day progressed with insightful keynote presentations from some of the world's leading geospatial experts:

Prof. Wolfgang Wagner, Remote Sensing Department, Vienna University of Technology, discussed the challenges of monitoring soil moisture and floods in arid environments using radar satellites, highlighting the potential of Sentinel-1 and ASCAT data alongside evolving algorithms to improve accuracy in harsh terrains. During his keynote session, **Prof. Naser El-Sheimy**, Professor and former Head of the Department of Geomatics Engineering, University of Calgary, showcased the evolution of mobile mapping into autonomous systems, revealing how integrated navigation and AI-powered sensors are redefining geospatial capabilities in urban mobility and smart infrastructure.

Prof. Khaula Alkaabi, Professor of Geography and Urban Sustainability, United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), emphasised the urgency of modernizing geospatial education, calling for curriculum reform, industry collaboration, and cloud-based learning platforms to better prepare students for tomorrow's AI-driven workforce. Meanwhile, **Prof. Adriano Camps**, Full Professor, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, took the audience on a technological journey—from microwave radiometry to CubeSats and GNSS-R—underscoring how cost-effective, high-resolution Earth observation tools are now accessible to researchers and innovators worldwide.

During the last keynote session of the day, **Prof. Deren Li**, Scientist, Wuhan University, China, introduced the transformative potential of Spatio-temporal Intelligence, illustrating how satellites, intelligent robotics, and data mining are supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in China and beyond.



Spotlight: What Do Experts Say?

"How are geospatial technologies contributing to making our lives easier?"

Geospatial technologies empower us to answer fundamental questions—why, where, and what. By harnessing data from satellites, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and mobile mapping systems, we're not only able to observe and understand our world in greater detail, but also make this information widely accessible, adaptable, and applicable across countless fields—from urban planning to climate action.

Prof. Deren Li
Scientist
Wuhan University, China

Geospatial technology is making our lives easier in numerous ways. From improved weather forecasting that leverages satellite data to modern navigation systems like Google Maps and Waze, we rely on satellite technologies daily. Indeed, these technologies benefit us in countless ways, many of which we may not even realise.

Prof. Adriano Camps
Full Professor
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Geospatial technology simplifies our lives by enabling us to understand both built and natural environments. It provides vital insights into our surroundings, including weather patterns and climate systems, whilst allowing us to issue warnings for critical situations.

Prof. Wolfgang Wagner
Remote Sensing Department
Vienna University of Technology

Today, geospatial technology plays a vital role across a wide range of fields—from environmental research to urban planning. Its use is especially critical in agriculture, where it supports everything from monitoring crop health to forecasting yields, enabling more precise and sustainable farming practices.

Saeed AlMansoori
Director of the Remote Sensing Department
MBRSC

Oral Presentations

Oral presentations during Day 1 of GSW 2025 brought cutting-edge research to life. Topics included AI for Spatial Data Quality and Uncertainty Modelling in Spatial Analyses, Planetary Remote Sensing and Mapping, Digital Twins and Open-Source Empowered HD Maps for Smart Mobility and Autonomy, Climate Change and Geospatial Research: Advanced Geospatial Research for a Sustainable Development Through International Cooperation.

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