



Saint-Mandé, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL  
Ref. DG /2016.141

Dear President, Dear Council Members,

IGN, the National Institute for Geographic and Forest Information, is the French National Mapping Agency and the official reference for geographic and forest information in France. IGN is a public administrative establishment under the joint authority of the ministers in charge of sustainable development and forests. Through its high level of expertise in geo-information, IGN provides support to public authorities for analysing and implementing land planning projects, and to draw up and assess public policy on defence, national security, sustainable development and environmental protection.

IGN has also a strong research and education mission in the field of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Geospatial Information Sciences. Around one hundred researchers cover the whole field of ISPRS from the design of new sensors and platforms for data collection, to the development of methods and algorithms for GeoBigData information extraction and mining, and to the management, geovisualisation and dissemination of geospatial data infrastructures through Inspire compatible portals. ENSG-Geomatique, IGN's engineering school, provides each year over one hundred high quality graduate students to the French Geoinformation ecosystem. ENSG-Geomatique has also very strong e-learning activities nationally recognized and will be happy to contribute to the new ISPRS Commission V.

IGN already strongly supports the activities of ISPRS; IGN has supported the activities of two ISPRS Commissions namely Commission I from 2004 to 2008, and Commission III from 2008 to 2016, and has co-organised the ISPRS Geospatial Week 2015, two ISPRS Symposia and several other workshops in the last decade. IGN has also published in the last twenty years over 200 papers in ISPRS journals, archives and annals proceedings.

IGN strongly supports the French candidature for hosting the XXVth ISPRS Congress in Nice in 2020 and also strongly supports, Nicolas Paparoditis, the candidate for congress director who is currently our Director in charge of Science. He has been very active in ISPRS since 2000 and I am sure he will do an excellent job as congress director and for serving ISPRS on a long term.

Sincerely yours.

Daniel Bursaux  
Director General

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bursaux'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

President and Council Members  
International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing