

Denver, CO, USA
April 9, 2010

Dear FOSS4G selection committee,

The same team that bid for the FOSS4G 2010 conference is pleased to re-submit to hold FOSS4G in Denver in 2011. Denver is a beautiful and friendly city with many attractions, located by the spectacular Rocky Mountains and close to several top, world-renowned ski resorts. Denver has hosted many large meetings, including the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Venue Information

Based on the local committee's experience with events in Denver, we've narrowed the potential facilities for FOSS4G 2011 down to two premier venues:

- Colorado Convention Center, a top tier convention facility with 584,000 sq ft of exhibit space, and around 200,000 sq ft of meeting space including two ballrooms and 63 meeting rooms
- Sheraton Denver Hotel, catering for meetings of up to 1100 people with 133,000 sq ft of meeting space, 2 ballrooms and 48 meeting rooms. In 2009 completed a \$70m renovation.

Denver offers more than 8,000 hotel rooms within walking distance of either venue—from high-end hotels at \$90-\$200 per night to motels and hostels for less than \$20 per night. In the Metro Denver area there are more than 42,000 hotel rooms to meet every meeting need.

Denver has a central location in North America, and its airport is a major hub that is easily accessible from all parts of the continent, and also serves a number of international routes.

Supporting Local Organizations

The Denver LOC has the support of many local organizations, reflected in the letters of support we received for our 2010 FOSS4G proposal, including commercial geospatial companies like Autodesk, WeoGeo, and Galdos; user organizations like FRUGOS and Rocky Mountain URISA; government organizations like the USGS; and major research centers like NSIDC and NOAA NGDC.

United States Government Participation

The United States Government has traditionally been a major supporter of FOSS4G, as well as a significant source of free (gratis and libre) geospatial data. The U.S. Army Construction Engineering Laboratories (CERL) that first developed the open source GRASS GIS. The US Geological Survey (USGS), which has a primary center in Denver, provides all its geospatial data for free.

The Geospatial Open Source Community in Colorado

The Front Range of Colorado, centered on Denver, is known as a leading hub for geospatial technology within North America and around the world. It is home to multiple geospatial organizations, including an active group focused on geospatial open source called FRUGOS: Front Range Users of Geospatial Open Source, which runs a variety of local events. Several members of the proposed local organizing committee organized a highly successful unconference in 2010 called WhereCamp5280 (5280 is the height of Denver in feet: the mile high city!).

Use of Free and Open Source Software in Denver/Boulder Research Centers

Open Source software is used extensively in regional research institutions such as the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC), Unidata, and university departments.

About Eric Wolf, Conference Chair

I am a Research Geographer in the U.S. Geological Survey Center of Excellence for GIScience. I am a board member of GeekLabs, Inc., a leader in applying FOSS technology to "smart grid" energy systems used in developing nations. In 1994, I co-founded the Chattanooga Unix, GNU, and Linux

User Group (CHUGALUG), to provide a network for professionals using FOSS in the Chattanooga Area. I am also a Geography PhD Student at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Local Organizing Committee

We feel we have an outstanding local organizing committee with a broad range of experience in geospatial technologies, open source and conference organizing:

- Peter Batty, Vice President of Geospatial Technology, Ubisense
- Steve Coast, Founder of OpenStreetMap and Cloudmade
- James Fee, Chief Evangelist, WeoGeo
- Sean Gorman, Founder and CEO of FortiusOne
- Mikel Maron, GeoHacker at Large
- Rafael Moreno-Sanchez, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado - Denver
- Bruce Raup, Associate Scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center
- Charlie Savage, Founder and CEO of Zerista
- Brian Timoney, Principal of The Timoney Group, founder of FRUGOS
- Andrew Turner, CTO of FortiusOne and founder of Mapufacture
- Ben Tuttle, GIS & Remote Sensing Scientist at the National Geophysical Data Center

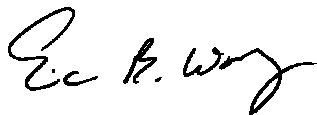
GITA, Conference Organizers

The LOC has partnered with the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA). Based locally in Aurora, Colorado, GITA has organized successful geospatial-oriented conferences since 1982, including its own Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference (formerly annual conference), which attracts several thousand people, as well as conferences on behalf of other groups, including the GeoWeb conference in Vancouver in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Ron Lake, Chairman and CEO of Galdos and organizer of the GeoWeb conference, says in his letter of support for 2010 "I am confident that the addition of GITA to the FOSS4G conference will pay dividends and result in an efficient and smoothly run event." GITA's excellence in managing conference logistics will allow the LOC to focus entirely on the conference program and help ensure the financial success of FOSS4G 2010. We also wanted to be clear that GITA will not be involved in program content decisions, that will be the responsibility of the LOC.

Denver: The Most Compelling North American Location for FOSS4G 2011

Denver is a recognized hotbed for geospatial technology, and there's no better city to re-introduce FOSS4G to the United States. The Local Organizing Committee and Conference Planners are invested in open source and geospatial technology. We will employ innovative programming, proven conference management, and streamlined budgeting, to break attendance records and move geospatial open source forward at FOSS4G 2011. Please see our 2010 proposal for more detail on any aspect of our bid.

Sincerely,



Eric B. Wolf

Geographer, Center of Excellence in GIScience

US Geological Survey