

FOSS4G 2016 Letter of Intent for Bonn, Germany

The FOSSGIS e.V., in its role as German speaking chapter of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation, in partnership with the UN City of Bonn, the University of Bonn and numerous Open Source GIS companies located in Bonn hereby want to submit their proposal to host the FOSS4G conference for 2016 in Bonn, Germany. We see a real historic touch when imagining this FOSS4G taking place at the same place where years ago politicians changed the map of Europe while debating German reunification (→ WCCB).

1. Who is your conference chair?

- Conference Chair: Till Adams / Marco Lechner
- Outreach Manager: Arnulf Christl

2. Who else is on your local organizing committee (LOC)?

We have the confirmation to support FOSS4G 2016 from a lot of active members from a broad range of organizations including business, government, universities and research institutes.

→ Stadt Bonn (City of Bonn)

Jürgen Nimpesch (Mayor of the City of Bonn), Dr. U. Ziegenhagen (Head of the chamber of commerce), Sven Hense, (Co-ordinator eGovernment and OpenData)

→ Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelm Universität Bonn (University of Bonn)

Prof. Dr. J. Fohrmann (Chair of the Rectorate), Prof. Dr. K. Greve (Dep. Of Geography), Prof. Dr. L. Plümer (Dep. for Geodesy and Geoinformation), Dr. G. Gröger (Dep. For Geodesy and Geoinformation)

→ Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

Athina Trakas (OGC Director European Services)

→ FOSSGIS e.V.

Daniel Kastl (Georepublic & PGRouting), Astrid Emde (FOSSGIS & Wheregroup & Mapbender), Ulrich Rothstein (WhereGroup & Mapbender), Horst Düster (Sourcepole & GGIS), Lars Lingner (Gislars), Katja Haferkorn (FOSSGIS), Jan Marsch (OSMBuildings & FOSSGIS), Volker Mische (Couchbase), Bernhard Ströbl (FOSSGIS), Dr. Franz-Josef Behr (HFT Stuttgart), Pirmin Kalberer (Sourcepole & QGIS), Christian Willmes (University of Cologne), Michael Kugelmann (FOSSGIS & OSM), Björn Schillberg (Intevation), Thomas Baumann (FOSSGIS), Jürgen E. Fischer (Norbit & QGIS), Michael Nolde (FOSSGIS) Otto Dessau (Büro f. Geoinformatik & QGIS), Jens Fitzke (latlon & deegree), Marc Jansen (terrestris & GeoExt, OpenLayers), Hinrich Paulsen (terrestris), Peter Stamm (Wheregroup), Marco Lechner (Chair FOSSGIS), Till Adams (Co-Chair of FOSSGIS & terrestris), Arnulf Christl (metaspatial)

3. What is the experience of your committee members with similar events?

The FOSSGIS organizes an annual conference in Germany since more than 10 years. It is probably the largest conference run by an OSGeo local chapter. Although FOSS4G and FOSSGIS conference are not directly comparable, we can point to some experience on that point.

FOSSGIS e.V. has hosted some other events in the past years, such as the SotM EU in 2014 and also the FOSSGIS lecture program on the Intergeo, the largest international trade fair and congress for Geoinformation and Surveying. We also cooperate with other German language events like AGIT in Salzburg, Austria where we organize a full day event with OSGeo including workshops, presentations, forum and BoFs every year since 2006. We also plan to engage the professional conference organizer „conference-plus“¹. They are very familiar with the local venues in Bonn and have considerable experience with organizing comparable event with up to 4500 participants.

4. What is your venue? (include access to Internet, room sizes, maximum attendees)

The World Conference Center Bonn² (WCCB) is located in the center of Bonn's former government quarter, in the immediate vicinity of the United Nations Campus and other international organizations and next to the river Rhine. The convention centre is a unique facility where German parliamentarians debated before

¹ <http://conference-plus.de>

² <http://www.worldccbonn.com/?L=1>

government migrated back to Berlin after reunification. WCCB is used for conferences and conventions and other events. From 2015 the new extension with a hotel directly on the campus will be available. Internet Access for all rooms and 1200 people is secured. Some numbers:

- Plenary Chamber (German Parliament met from 1992 until 1999) – max. 1230 persons
- 12 rooms with 22 to 160 m² / up to 184 persons (list here³)

5. What is the price range and general location of your proposed accommodations? (hotels)) & the City of Bonn

Bonn is located at the Rhine River and the cities own slogan is „Freude“, the german word for "Joy" and "Happiness". As the former capital of Germany Bonn kept it's spirit of an active, world-open city. This also is expressed by the co-name, the „UN City“ because several UN authorities have chosen Bonn as headquarters. The „UN Campus Bonn“ is in direct neighborhood of the WCCB.

With three international airports Frankfurt (FRA), Cologne-Bonn (CGN) and Düsseldorf (DUS) within an hour train distance and direct connection to the major north-south bound railway network Bonn is excellently accessible for guests from Germany, Europe and all over the world.

Accommodation in Bonn and also the neighbouring Cologne (30 Minutes) or to the south is available in a wide range of comfort and price with a strong focus on mid-priced hotels (starting from 23 € in youth hostel up to 200 €). A conference-deal is possible.

6. Are you partnering with other local organizations?

- There is a strong movement towards connecting the EARSEL and also the GSDI to FOSS4G 2016. There are other movements from the City of Bonn and also the university, to let FOSS4G take place under the hood of UN, which would lead to a strong reduced price of the WCCB
- Regarding use of OpenSource software in public administration especially Germany stands for an open minded culture. Many public administrations on different levels in Germany have been using and supporting Open Source GIS tools for years. We expect a lot of public partners here
- As said before, Bonn is a core area for Geoinformatics Business in Germany and we are sure to also attract new people who are not yet part of the existing Open Source community.
- There are a several big companies located in Bonn dealing with geo-processing and we think to attract them as part of the local team or at least as sponsors

7. What makes FOSS4G in your proposed location compelling?

- FOSSGIS is one of the biggest local chapters of OSGeo and several OSGeo projects are supported or have been founded in Germany. We believe, that we have a well-prepared and enthusiastic team with a lot of experience in hosting conferences
- Bonn is located in the heart of Europe with open frontiers and open-minded people. The city and the surrounding are an attractive place for all kinds of activities around the conference.
- We have contact to other neighboring disciplines, such as Remote Sensing or the Open Data movement. There are plans that the EARSEL⁴, the international conference of the remote sensing folks might also take place in Bonn in 2016.
- Open Data is a big thing in Germany and especially supported by the FOSSGIS e.V which is also home to the German speaking OpenStreetMap community. A FOSS4G held in Germany would help to knit a closer bond between both communities
- Bonn is the “heart of the German Open Source GIS movement”. There are several in the community well-known OpenSource GIS companies in Bonn (lat/lon, terrestris, WhereGroup, e.g.). Also here the first know so-called FOSSGIS-conference took place.

³ <http://www.worldccbonn.com/en/pages/overview-of-premises/>

⁴ <http://www.earsel.org/welcome.html>