October 4, 2018
Calgary Alberta

**Re: FOSS4G 2020 Letter of Intent**

Dear FOSS4G 2020 selection committee,

On behalf of the Geospatial Community in Calgary, Alberta Canada, we are pleased to express our interest in being the host city for the 2020 FOSS4G Conference.

**Conference Chairs**

- Jonathan Neufeld, CEO TECTERRA
- Brad Ashley, Past President of Alberta Geomatics Group

**Local Organizing Committee**

- Jonathan Neufeld, CEO TECTERRA
- Brad Ashley, previous Co-Chair GeoAlberta
- Scott McHale, Co-chair GEO Alberta
- Dianne Hailey, Co-chair GEO Alberta
- Dr. Naser El-Sheimy, Professor of Geomatics Engineering, University of Calgary
- Andrew House, Director of Commercialization Programs TECTERRA

**Event Organizing Experience**

This group has experience in putting together three major geospatial events:

- GEOAlberta – is the industry's top knowledge-sharing opportunity in Western Canada. Surveyors, GIS specialists, municipalities, oil and gas, planners, and governmental policy makers meet to discuss. This conference will be hosted for the 12th consecutive year in 2019 and attracts approximately 300 delegates.
- TECNOVATE (formerly the TECTERRA Geomatics Showcase) - connects technology, innovation, and business; an unprecedented forum for innovation and commerce, and a catalyst for true business growth. Over the years, the event has seen steady increase in the number of overall attendance and exhibitors and has come to attract approximately 500 attendees.
- NORTH51 – Started in winter 2018, NORTH51 is the gathering place for the most innovative minds in geospatial technology. This exclusive two-day conference features informative sessions and discussions of game changing technological breakthroughs in the areas of artificial intelligence, the internet of things, remote sensing and location analytics. The inaugural event drew a crowd of 60+ C-Level executives and academics from the Canadian geospatial ecosystem. Keynote speakers included: Alex Miller, Founder of ESRI Canada; Arthur Berrill, Head of Location Intelligence for RBC; and Alastair Jenkins, CEO of Aetheon Technologies and former founder of GEO Digital.

**Proposed Venue & Dates**

The proposed venue for FOSS4G 2020 is the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre (CTCC) located in the heart of downtown Calgary. CTCC boasts 122,000 sq. ft. of dedicated convention space, some 47,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space, 5 pre-function areas, 36 meeting rooms and is physically connected to three 4 star hotel properties. Wifi and hardwired internet will be available to attendees for a fee. We would also propose that the computer lab workshops be held the two days prior to the start of the conference at the University of Calgary.

The LOC proposes this conference take place **August 24-29, 2020**. Space is tentatively being held at CTCC.

**Accommodations**

The planning committee anticipates that 2-3 hotels will need to be utilized in order to meet guest room requirements. With 1,150 guest rooms attached to the CTCC and over 4,000 in the downtown core, there is an abundance of hotel selection. Rate ranges are anticipated to be between $160.00- $209.00 US. The LOC has been actively working with City of Calgary's Convention & Visitors Bureau on preliminary planning to identify available appropriate and affordable options for accommodations.

**Early Cost Estimate**

LOC believes that due to local industry and location, we will have the ability to build on past success of North American destinations and attract upwards of 1000+ delegates to this conference. As such, we estimate that costs will remain relatively consistent with past conferences. LOC anticipates that early bird registration will be approximately $650.00 US while regular conference fee would be $800.00 US. Workshops would be an additional charge to be determined later.

**Local Partnerships**

- TECTERRA Inc.
- Alberta Geomatics Group (AGG)
- URISA Alberta
- University of Calgary
- Meetings & Conventions Calgary

**Why FOSS4G in Calgary**

Industry
- Calgary is a North American hub for geospatial science, which is driving growth in the emerging sector of unmanned and autonomous systems. Companies in Calgary are utilizing unmanned and autonomous systems, coupled with geospatial computing technologies, in sectors such as oil and gas, agriculture, construction, film and television and logistics.
- The city has a strong pool of talent in geospatial technologies, data analysis, data visualization and systems integration.
- Calgary boasts a number of world-class research institutions, progressive legislation and an entrepreneurial mindset that is driving this technology forward.
- 25% of Canadian geomatics, navigation and global positions firms are headquartered in Calgary. Local companies include Garmin Canada, NovAtel, Intergraph, Hemisphere GNSS, and over 50 SMEs engaged in development and commercialization of geospatial technology
- Calgary is the first major city in North America to allow mass testing of commercial drones and recent regulation allows for the testing of autonomous systems technologies on city owned land.

Destination Calgary
Calgary is an urban business centre surrounded on all sides by scenic Canadian vistas and five world Unesco Heritage sites. In the downtown alone, you will find over 1,000 shops, 200 restaurants and eateries, and 50 nightclubs and pubs. There are also 18 major tourist attractions, and 23 annual festivals throughout the city. We are conveniently located 45 minutes away from the majestic Rocky Mountains, giving delegates the opportunity for pre and post experiences.
- **Save money** – Conference dollars can be stretched further in Alberta with no municipal or provincial (state) taxes in Alberta and a current exchange rate of $0.76.
- **Easy Access** – the YYC Calgary International Airport is the third busiest in Canada and has direct non-stops from various US and International destinations.
- **Funding** – Based on the size of the FOSS4G conference, OSGeo is applicable to receive destination marketing funding on behalf of the city. Dollar value to be determined.