

Our Ref: 2006187/GEO/DIR

GEO Principal

Geneva, 17 November 2006

Dear GEO Principal,

The GEOSS Clearinghouse Task Team, in charge of Task AR-06-05, is issuing a Request for Information (RFI) for the Proof of Concept phase of the GEOSS Clearinghouse.

The objective of this RFI is to solicit comments on the proposed draft architecture for the GEOSS Clearinghouse from each of the GEO Members and Participating Organizations.

For accessing data in each of the contributed systems, GEOSS will need a publicly accessible, network-distributed clearinghouse, subject to GEOSS interoperability specifications, including an inventory of existing data, metadata, services and pre-defined common products. Given its critical role in connecting the various components of GEOSS, the Clearinghouse concept will need to be reviewed not only by the GEO Architecture and Data Committee, but also all Members and Participating Organizations, who are therefore encouraged to respond to this RFI.

The RFI also seeks GEO Members and Participating Organizations willing to contribute components for the Proof-of-Concept phase. It is anticipated that the results of this testing phase along with the expected comments on the architecture will subsequently be used in a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operational implementation of the GEOSS Clearinghouse.

Responses to the RFI should be sent to the GEOSS Clearinghouse Task Team through the Task Point of Contact (George Percivall, [percivall@opengeospatial.org](mailto:percivall@opengeospatial.org)).

This RFI will remain open until the Clearinghouse Task Team has received input from a representative cross-section of GEO Members and participating organizations. Responses may be sent immediately upon receipt of this RFI. Responses received before 31 December 2006 will be included in the Proof of Concept Testing phase to begin in January 2007.



The RFI is available at:

[http://www.earthobservations.org/docs/RFI\\_GEOSS\\_Clearinghouse\\_13.10.2006.pdf](http://www.earthobservations.org/docs/RFI_GEOSS_Clearinghouse_13.10.2006.pdf)

Furthermore, in response to a recommendation by the Architecture and Data Committee, the GEOSS Clearinghouse Task Team is organizing a demonstration at GEO-III Plenary, Bonn, 28-29 November 2006. GEO Members and Participating Organizations who will participate the GEO-III are invited to visit the demonstration booth.

We hope that you appreciate the importance of this RFI process to capture the comments of the whole GEO community for this foundational element of GEOSS and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'José Achache'.

José Achache  
Secretariat Director