

Ian Jackson



Ian Jackson is the Chief of Operations for BGS. He began his career in 1972 on mineral assessment programmes in the UK and overseas and moved in the early 1980s to work as a field geologist in the North-East England coalfield. Application of early computing systems to geology led to his appointment as the manager of a corporate project to introduce digital mapping across BGS and he was responsible for the development of the UK geological map and geohazard digital databases. A dominant theme in his career is the wider exploitation of geoscience data for societal benefit. Ian is Secretary General of the International Union of Geological Sciences Commission for Geoscience Information and a member of an EC Directive (INSPIRE) regulation drafting team. He compiled an atlas of UK geoscience spatial data entitled 'Britain beneath our feet' and is currently coordinating OneGeology.

François Robida



François Robida is the Deputy Head of the Information Systems and Technologies Division of BRGM (French Geological Survey), coordinating the research and European activities. He began his career as a mining engineer and geostatistician and has 28 years of experience in computer science applications to earth sciences (R&D, marketing of software in the areas of geology and mining). François has been involved in numerous projects and coordinated for BRGM several European R&D programmes in the field of information technology. He has been representing EuroGeoSurveys (the Association of European Geological Surveys) in the preparation of the INSPIRE EC Directive, which aims at developing interoperability in the environment domain. He is now Chair of the EuroGeoSurveys INSPIRE Working Group. He is involved in international activities of standardisation as a member of the IUGS/CGI Council, chair of the OGC France Forum (French branch of OpenGeospatial Consortium). He coordinates the development of the OneGeology Portal, hosted by BRGM.

Luca Demicheli



Luca Demicheli is Secretary General of the Italian Commission for the International Year of Planet Earth (2007-2009) and is responsible for the coordination of the international activities of the Geological Survey of Italy. He has been recently appointed incoming Secretary General of EuroGeoSurveys, the Association of the Geological Surveys of Europe. A geologist specialised in environmental engineering and environmental management and planning, has served for many years within the European Commission where launched and coordinated the environmental strategy of several major international scientific projects. He is member of several both national and international task forces, committees and management boards, such as the European Topic Centre on Land Use and Spatial Information of the European Environment Agency and the Science and Technology Committee of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO), where he represents both Italy and EuroGeoSurveys.

Patrick Bell



Patrick Bell started his career as a geospatial analyst with the Forestry Commission in 1993. In 1996 he joined the British Geological Survey, working on a number of GIS projects both at home, such as the development of a subsidence prediction tool for the insurance industry, and abroad in places such as Nigeria, Malaysia and South Africa.

Patrick became involved with web technologies, managing the BGS internet and intranet sites. The emergence of GIS capability in a web environment led to his involvement in the development of spatial information delivery tools, providing map-based interfaces to BGS information over the internet.

Most recently, Patrick have looked to take advantage of advances in easy-to-use 'geobrowser' applications such as Google Earth which are bringing spatial information to a wider audience. He is involved in providing BGS information in open standard, interoperable formats that enable the discovery, visualisation and intercomparison of datasets from different providers in a single interface. In 2008, Patrick was appointed Head of Web Systems in BGS.