Workshop 1

Consider and determine the relevance, roles and outputs of the future NMGA in a digital economy

As an introduction to the session short presentations were given by the two co-Chairs, Kristian Moller and Ingrid Vanden Berghe.

Participants in the workshop discussed the following topics:

- Use of data across government is key. Many different government departments and agencies are collecting or procuring similar data for similar purposes.
- For the future, NMGAs have a role as a broker of information. This is information for use by both government and the citizen. This should also include facilitation of data from government sources, as well as the private sector.
- This facilitation is driven by governance and a mandate for the brokering of information. The facilitation helps to overcome challenges that are technical – how do we actually do this? Fiscal – someone has to provide the initial costs but everyone else benefits. Political – whose legislative frameworks allow this type of data brokerage, and does this need to change?
- Access to investment, either by 'political investment' or 'fiscal investment is one of the main challenges. Especially as there are more constraints on budgets. Working collaboratively helps to solve this.
- The digital world also provides challenges of security. This falls into two areas of security, security of supply, and resilience.
- The mandate of the NMGA of the future will be challenged by budgetary and fiscal constraints. Crucially there is no one-size fits all answer. However most participants agree that we are having to do more for less, and this is unlikely to change in the future. So far there have been some success by demonstrating to decision/policy makers about the societal benefits (saving lives and infrastructure development) from the use of geospatial information. This 'story' changes as the political / fiscal administrations change.
- There is likely to be changes to the role and remits of the NMGA of the future. There appears to be two types of data that are used. Data that is core to the running of the business, and data where value could be added. Both need to be monitored as the value add data may be the core data of the future.