

The Increasing Choice in Data Collection to Mapping Agencies – Professor Jon Mills

Abstract

Jon Mills presented on data collection technologies looking ahead to 2030, and what better way to look ahead than looking back 13 years? 13 years ago, no-one considered there would be a Brexit, and likewise no-one was considering how drones would disrupt the industry! Current devices are getting smaller whilst retaining or improving accuracy, such as the SLC Multi-purpose GNSS Receiver which can plug into an iPad to become a precise surveying device. With incredibly detailed point clouds data collection can capture ever intricate features, potentially replacing traditional surveyors for certain tasks. The only thing to be certain of in the future is more disruptive technologies, however Jon did go on to summarise future trends with blurring between land, water, air, and space platforms, around the clock multi-scale surveying with sensor networks, real time serving of information, not data, and wider industry data collecting such as the automotive industry.

- Smartphones have 17 different sensors, which banks are starting to use to test if it is the owner using the device e.g. how the device is held
- Smartphones can be used as a surveying instrument with the cloud doing the heavy processing, reporting the results back to devices.
- GPS not wholly good enough
- Point Clouds are becoming incredibly detailed picking up very intricate detail
- Using multiple sensors and methods together is becoming an ever-important approach
- Some systems observe but do not store the data