

# BCCO

STAR-APIC NEWSLETTER - NUMBER 4 - JUNE 2008

## EDITORIAL

### A time of change at STAR-APIC

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The last few weeks have seen important changes in the management of the STAR-APIC group. In addition to the appointment of Jean GABRIEL as the new CEO, and the nomination of Issam TANNOUS as Director General, STAR-APIC has also appointed a new CTO (Chief Technology Officer), Pierre-Jean LAUTIER, who will run the R&D team in charge of Group product development.

These appointments form a key part of the strategy that the STAR-APIC group intends to implement to converge its products with the aim of producing an integrated software suite. This policy is essential for the growth of the Group and the continuation of our strong relationships with our customers and partners.

Several presentations and demonstrations will be organised during the year, in order to inform our customers and partners about our plans. For example, the STAR-APIC UK Event in Southampton on 12th June, the Middle East and North Africa User Conference from the 15th to 17th June in Damascus, and then the French User Event in Paris in the Autumn.

2008 will certainly be a key year in the evolution of the STAR-APIC group ■



Issam TANNOUS  
General Director  
STAR-APIC group

Jean GABRIEL  
CEO  
STAR-APIC group

## EVENTS

### A Conference for Middle East and North African Users

The countries of the Middle East and North Africa have been interested in GIS technology for many years and the STAR-APIC group has won many customers in this part of the world.

To strengthen its links with customers in this area, STAR-APIC has arranged its first Middle East and North Africa User Conference. The event, hosted by SEMPLISOFT, the STAR-APIC official distributor in Syria and supported by the Belgium Embassy and the Belgian Economic and Commercial Development Department in Syria, will be held in Damascus from the 15th to 17th June 2008.

The conference, sponsored by the SMC Electronics Group, will have two main themes. The first will concentrate on the different software solutions for public authorities; the second on applications recommended for network management (water, electricity, etc.).

STAR-APIC will demonstrate its latest products and our customers will also explain their use of STAR-APIC solutions. ■

For more information: [www.star-apic.com](http://www.star-apic.com) – Events

### STAR-APIC French Event in Paris

The STAR-APIC French users and partners will meet in Paris, on Tuesday the 23rd September 2008. The plenary session will be concentrating on STAR-APIC's product development strategy and will include demonstrations by our users of their implementations. The working sessions will be followed by a Gala Dinner. More information concerning this event will be available soon. ■

Registration deadline: Monday, the 30th June 2008 (the number of places is limited) Contact: [evenement2008@star-apic.com](mailto:evenement2008@star-apic.com)

### STAR-APIC UK Events

STAR-APIC will be hosting an Event entitled 'Managing and Publishing Spatial Data' on 12th June at Ordnance Survey in Southampton. The day will include a mixture of presentations by experts in their field and interactive workshops.

Attendance at this Event is free, but places are strictly numbered. Please visit [www.star-apic.co.uk](http://www.star-apic.co.uk) for further information and to register.

STAR-APIC will also be attending a number of UK industry events during 2008. We will again support the GeoDATA 2008 events taking place in May in London, Manchester, Glasgow and Cardiff. ■ For more information: [www.citiesrevealed.com/events/geodata2008](http://www.citiesrevealed.com/events/geodata2008)

We are pleased to be Silver Sponsors of the AGI 2008 event taking place in Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare, in September. ■

For more information: [www.agi2008.com](http://www.agi2008.com)



## New customers

### Moroccan National Ports Authority chooses STAR-APIC

Following a competitive tender STAR-APIC has been awarded a contract by the Moroccan National Ports Authority (ANP). The aim of the project is to develop, install and implement a GIS that will provide a digital database of all the ports managed by ANP.

In addition to the main ANP office in Casablanca, 11 ports will be equipped by a GIS server. A NeXT server, the Web module in the STAR-APIC range of products, will also be installed in the headquarters. This contract places the STAR-APIC group as a leader in the field of port management in Morocco.

Previously, in 2006, the Moroccan Ports and Public Maritime Authority (DPDPM) selected STAR-APIC software products to help manage Ports. ■

### Province Sud (New Caledonia) acquires GeoSpatial Hub

STAR-APIC and its partner, THEOME, have won a contract to implement a GIS for the Province Sud, one of the three provinces of New Caledonia.

Implementation has commenced and the first stage is to install a regional geo-portal with 1/10 000e orthophotomaps, and the cadastral plan. The second phase, due in September 2008 will see the installation of 15 APIC licenses and the migration of

land management and mappings function to APIC. In addition, interfaces with other GIS systems are due to be completed by the end of 2008.

The GeoSpatial Hub will be integrated with the authority's corporate information system to provide interfaces with business applications for surveyors, cartographers, road network and property managers, etc.

The GeoSpatial Hub will enable Province Sud to make the best use of geospatial data across all of its areas of responsibility: health, education, tourism, road network management, environment, etc. The public access website element of the solution will also provide a high-quality mapping site for the population of New Caledonia. ■

### Survey of India confirms its confidence in Mercator with 25 extra licenses

The Survey of India has ordered 25 additional Mercator licenses to equip its regional centres.

Mercator has been the prime cartographic publishing tool at the central office of the Survey of India in

Dehra Dun, for some years. This order, which will equip all regional centres with Mercator, confirms the Survey's confidence in our solution and services. This order was awarded after an intensive selection process,

in which STAR-APIC was greatly assisted by SHREYA.COM, our partner in India. We are particularly pleased with this success as it was the first joint project between SHREYA.COM and STAR-APIC. ■

## Partnership

### Memorandum signed between STAR-APIC and the University of Liege (Belgium)

A three-year partnership agreement has been signed between the Geomorphology and Remote Sensing Laboratory at the University of Liege, run by Professor Ozer, and the STAR-APIC group.

On one hand, this agreement aims to support the

research and development in the Belgian University in the GIS field: on the other hand, it familiarizes students, trainees and collaborators with the practical use of modern software tools. This partnership shows the importance placed by STAR-APIC in the training and support of future generations of GIS professionals. ■



## New staff

### STAR-APIC strengthens UK Team

STAR-APIC is pleased to welcome Stuart Miller who has joined as Commercial Manager to further develop new business and markets. He will concentrate particularly on the latest Mercator software for high quality map production.

Stuart Miller has more than 20 years experience in mapping and geospatial technology having previously worked with Tenet Technology, Inovas, Laser-Scan, Reed Elsevier (Philip's) and APIC SA.

Jean Gabriel, CEO of the STAR-APIC group comments "I am delighted to welcome Stuart Miller to

STAR-APIC. His experience and knowledge will be invaluable to the Group".

Tom Timms, UK Director added, "Stuart Miller has outstanding credentials, and first hand experience of our software. We are very pleased to welcome him back". ■



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## What's new in the STAR-APIC WebGIS?



### “ What is new in NeXt7?

**B.D.T. :** We have improved several aspects of the product. Firstly the look and feel and functionality of the application are now entirely configurable by non-developers. Changing a simple form can now result in very different looking applications. We have also strengthened user authentication and administration. Now the administrator has a range of tools to manage user profiles and access rights. Users can also create database queries and share them with other interested users. Another significant enhancement are improvements to editing functionality. Users can now add, delete and modify points allowing them to create and change objects more easily. ”

### “ Are there any enhancements to OraNeXt, the access tool to Oracle databases?

**B.D.T. :** Yes. We have improved the rendering of text, styles, fills, transparency and other vector display characteristics to a high quality. OraNeXt now also supports dynamic change of projection systems for display. It is also important to stress that OraNeXt conforms to SLD standards defined by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) which improves interoperability with other applications and products. ”

### “ What about NeXt 7 installation and configuration?

**B.D.T. :** We have spent some time to simplify and speed up installation and configuration of NeXt7. The NeXt installer is compatible with Windows, Linux and MacOS, and once installed the software starts the configuration tool to connect to data and serve maps to the browser. NeXt also includes

a web based configuration tool that sets up look and feel, access to data, symbology and other parameters. Don't forget that NeXt 7 supports the most popular browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari... ”

### “ What is planned for the future?

**B.D.T. :** Our developments concentrate around 3 main areas:

- Closer integration with our GeoSpatial Hub solution particularly concerning administration, configuration and services,
- A significant increase in NeXt functionality,
- Even better ease of use and configuration. ” ■



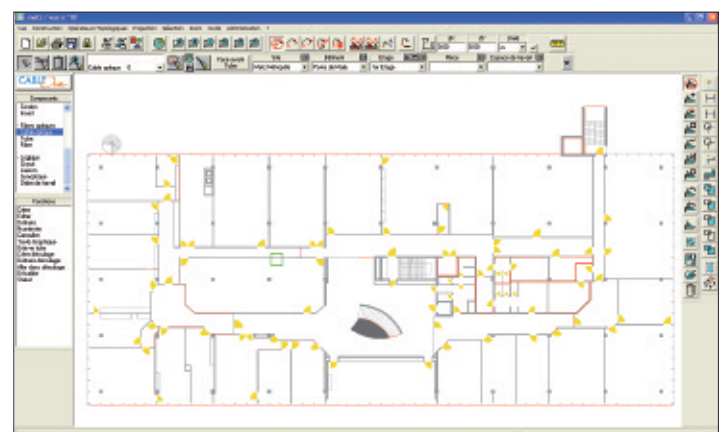
## CABLE One Telecom: Fibre-optic infrastructure management

Used by more and more local and regional organisations for data transport, fibre-optic cabling offers high bandwidth to meet the increasing need for fast internet access.

To help manage such networks, STAR-APIC offers the CABLE One Telecom solution from the BUILDING One product range. This complete and competitive tool, developed in conjunction with telecom operators,

simplifies management of the extended infrastructure (both physical network and environment), to optimise access and works, to plan enhancements and to analyse incidents.

CABLE One Telecom allows users to trace the network both inside and outside buildings. The system can be fully configured to meet specific needs and requirements of any organisation. Two display types are



available view the infrastructure:

- a geographic view that offers the necessary precision and geo-location;
- a schematic view that gives a view of equipment and technical rooms, ensuring that users have an optimum view of the network and infrastructure.

Other benefits include: simple browsing of the database, enhanced zoom functions, ease of use and instant location of any asset.

CABLE One Telecom is a proven tool to simplify management operational networks. ■



## STAR-APIC active in forest management

Started in 2006, the Canopée Project, delivered by STAR-APIC for the French Office National des Forêts (ONF), has put geographic information within the reach of forest agents and managers.

Created in 1966, ONF took over from the Water and Forest Administration, heir of 8 centuries of forest management. ONF is a

public industrial and commercial organisation under both the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing, and the Ministry of Ecology, Development and Land. On behalf of the French State and Local Administrations, ONF manages more than 12 million hectares of public forests and open spaces which represent 25% of French forests. In 1996, ONF managers deployed a GIS to more than 80 offi-

ces, but the system architecture made information sharing difficult. The need to share and propagate information led to the Canopée project. This public tender was awarded to STAR-APIC in 2006.

The Canopée application has been developed to allow 6 main functions:

- GIS data visualization;
- quick measurement of an area and length;
- integration with field tools (GPS, electronic field books);
- field data capture and editing;
- plot production;
- geographic data exchange between agents and different GIS sites.

With many offices in remote locations with limited internet access, ONF could not deploy a centralised web application. STAR-APIC proposed an

application based on STAR GIS that also works on application servers.

The first version deployed to the whole organisation throughout France, was delivered at the end of October 2007. A production test has been successful in the Haute-Marne area. General deployment is in progress; the final objective is for availability on 3500 computers, (access for 7000 persons). In addition about 2000 agents will be users from June 2008.

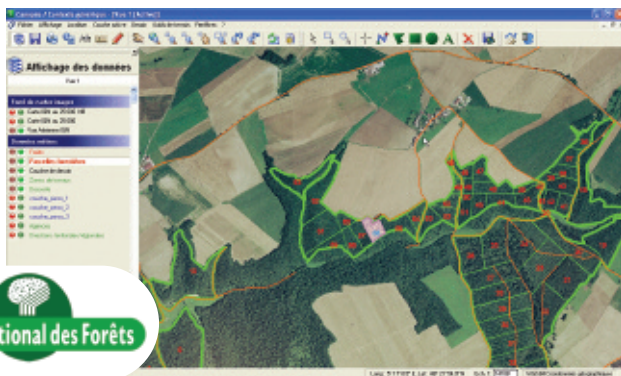
Initial use by ONF agents and managers has identified additional requirements and a new version is under development to meet these needs. ■

For more information:

[www.onf.fr](http://www.onf.fr)

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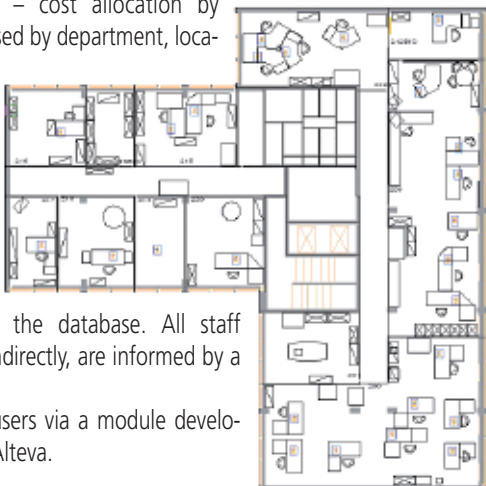
## Lagardère - Asset Management

The Lagardère Active Group includes Lagardère Press, Television and Radio activities. In a company of more than 3500 employees there is a constant requirement to manage movement of staff and related resources (PCs and telephones for example).

Specific technical teams are used within the organisation to move equipment. The Levallois site in France selected BUILDING One in 2003 to optimize the average of 1100 moves that are carried out each year by a dedicated team of 8 people.

The BUILDING One solution allows:

- display and printing of plans including thematic plans (floor covering, wall type etc.),
- space management – cost allocation by square metre, area used by department, location of specific staff and equipment,
- project management to plan and simulate changes. Once validated, projects are applied in the field and integrated directly into the database. All staff involved directly or indirectly, are informed by a service note,
- help requests from users via a module developed by our partner, Alteva.



### New developments

Currently, the system manages information relating to 2300 computers across 5 buildings with an area of about 65 000 m<sup>2</sup>. Recent changes in the group (mergers and acquisitions) have significantly increased the number of moves and the use of BUILDING One at other sites. Integration of new operations began in September 2007. A new team of 10 staff will soon access the system from remote sites. The existing database will then be extended to 5 new buildings. The complete system will be operational in June.

### The future

The integration of an extra building is likely before the end of 2008. Once this is complete new applications are planned to include: management of keys and access, smoke detector location and fire extinguisher management. "As I often tell people interested in BUILDING One, we can access all of the information in the database and present it through Excel. The problem is getting information back from people on the ground about the changes made, not getting data from the system" says M.Escolivet, from Lagardère Active. ■



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