

Last minute news

Walloon Water Company, a new STAR-APIC reference



## Serving business

Water network management is one of the flagship business applications developed by STAR-APIC. Built on many years experience acquired by working with major organizations such as Lyonnaise des Eaux in France, Northumbrian Water in United Kingdom and AySA in Argentina, our expertise is now available in a high quality business solution.

By incorporating business processes, and integrating with relevant systems, the solution can substantially improve operations and productivity for those managing drinking water networks. With integrated management the solution can help manage critical issues such as leakage, interruptions to supply, fire hydrants and customer service. The system also assists with renewals and refurbishment, network extensions and planning and investment. Sewerage and drainage systems can also be managed.

From a European base our solutions are now exported to many international countries, especially in North Africa and the Middle East where water resources are scarce and water supply and management are critical issues.

This business solution for managing water and sewerage networks is a reflection of our group policy to specialize in specific application areas. Our leitmotiv is to master GIS and geospatial technologies to serve business. In future editions of BCO, I will focus on other business areas that shape our Group image.

*"Our leitmotiv is to master GIS and geospatial technologies to serve business."*

Issam TANNOUS  
CEO  
STAR-APIC Group



STAR-APIC has won the tender to renew the Walloon Water Company (Société Wallonne Des Eaux - SWDE) GIS system with a solution based on the Elyx platform. SWDE is the largest producer and distributor of drinking water in the Walloon region of Belgium.

The new GIS will replace the current stand-alone systems with a centralized database, an interface to SAP and connections to Electronic Document Management systems. The GIS is accessible via a web portal and will significantly improve the efficiency of the company in planning network interventions and analyzing field data.

The STAR-APIC GIS will bring benefits to a range of departments within SWDE including: a mobile solution for field workers; improved data access for department managers and network engineers; improved tools for drawing offices in charge of daily database updates; tools for laboratory staff to map sampling and water quality, and the water production department for the planning and works maintenance, network projects and water zone delimitation.

This new contract strengthens STAR-APIC's leadership in the provision of GIS solutions for water and sewerage network management.

In this edition...

news 2

- New customers
- Users club
- Events

focus on products 4

- New releases
- Business solution
- Mass market solution
- Focus on Elyx

case studies 6

- Mercator is on the move

edito

## New customers

### Customers continue to develop STAR-APIC implementations

**The Paris Urban Heating Company** (Compagnie Parisienne de Chauffage Urbain - CPCU) has enhanced the STAR-APIC solutions used to manage its heating network, by acquiring ten additional licenses. To expand the range of services and functionality CPCU has also begun data migration to Oracle Spatial.

**Colmarienne des Eaux** has acquired 10 additional licenses to equip its services and manage the 360 kilometres of water pipes that it manages. Furthermore, the purchase of the STAR-APIC Water application will provide new business functionality specific to the industry such as management of cross sections, specific display functions and data capture tools specific to the water industry (to maintain a network for example).

### Angers Loire Métropole uses STAR-APIC technology to provide Internet mapping

Launched last September during mobility week, an interactive cycle map was made available to the public by Angers Loire Métropole and is now available directly on its web site. Based on STAR-APIC NeXt7 technology, the map offers users the ability to search by street or by commune, and to calculate the distance from one point to another. In addition to providing information on the cycle network linking the 31 communes within the agglomeration, the maps show one-way streets, pedestrian areas, and facilities useful to cyclists – cycle shops and rental facilities and bicycle repairers.

The application uses cadastral and city maps together with aerial photography. Other business oriented web applications are planned, particularly publication of Local Town Planning Maps.

#### **The Angers Loire Métropole interactive map:**

<http://sig.angersloiremetropole.fr/cartes/>

#### **The cycle network:**

[http://sig.angersloiremetropole.fr/carte\\_cycle/](http://sig.angersloiremetropole.fr/carte_cycle/)

### JUPEM confirms its trust in Mercator

JUPEM (The Malaysian Department of Survey and Mapping) has been a long-standing user of Mercator. At the beginning of 2008, the agency decided to restructure and modernise its cartographic production setup by acquiring the Mercator Windows version. This version offers many new functions and modules, which made the tool even more attractive than before.

Implementation of the new production flow lines at JUPEM was performed in close cooperation with EskoArtwork ASP, our partner for the cartographic industry in the Asia-Pacific region.

## STAR-APIC strengthens its presence in Alsace

After a competitive tendering process, the Communauté d'Agglomération Mulhouse Sud Alsace (CAMSA) has chosen STAR-APIC to replace its current GeoCity GIS. STAR-APIC will integrate current business applications into the new system, which is based on both client/server and Internet architectures. Data sharing between commune members will be available through a common Extranet. Following the Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg contract, signed last September, STAR-APIC has further strengthened its presence in Alsace.

## The Commune of Schaerbeek chose STAR-APIC

Following a competitive tendering process STAR-APIC has been selected to provide GIS technology by the Commune of Schaerbeek, a community near Brussels of more than 100,000 inhabitants. Schaerbeek wanted to implement a complete new GIS on workstations, the Internet/Intranet, and on mobile platforms. The project is important to the commune to improve efficiency of services. A key task is to integrate a range of datasets into a single consistent Geographic Information System.

## The Department of Justice keeps a close watch on offenders with STAR-APIC technology

Following a public tendering procedure, STAR-APIC and its partner TEAMLOG have been selected by the French Justice Department for a national scale implementation of a system to manage electronic surveillance of offenders (GIPSE). Offenders are equipped with a GPS emitting bracelet which is monitored by Department Agents to ensure that they respect any conditions associated with their sentence. The preventive system allows precise monitoring of offender movement and initiates immediate measures in the event of sentence violations. Started a year ago the project is being finalised.

## A new Water customer in North-Africa

L'Algérienne des Eaux has selected STAR-APIC to provide GIS software and services to Jijel, a coastal city situated in the North-East of Algeria. The STAR-APIC solution to be implemented will manage the drinking water network.

**Other new references:** the Daraa City in Syria, the Abaque engineering office in France, the Binche-Anderlues police force in Belgium, etc.

## Users club



## STAR-APIC Users Club - October 6th and 7th

The Communauté d'Agglomération de La Rochelle will host, on the 6th and 7th of October 2009, the next meeting of the French STAR-APIC Users. Last year, the first meeting took place in Paris and gathered about 200 users who attended the sneak preview presentation of the new Elyx product range.

## Events



Mercator Suite 7 unveiled in March, in Las Vegas, United States, during the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting.

## Elyx and the Mercator Suite 7, introduced in the UK

Introduced for the first time last February at the Belfast International Map Trade Association (IMTA) Conference, the brand-new Mercator Suite 7 is also promoted during the British Cartographic Society Annual Symposium (Newport Pagnell, June 17-19) and the Cambridge Conference: The Exchange (Southampton, July 12-15).

The STAR-APIC Group is also represented at the popular GeoDATA events in Dublin

(14 May), London (17 June), Leeds (23 June), Edinburgh (25 June) and Birmingham (2 July). In addition STAR-APIC is sponsoring, the AGI GeoCommunity 09 event in Stratford-upon-Avon the 23rd and 24th of September.

### More information:

[www.star-apic.com](http://www.star-apic.com),

« Press Releases » section.

## Events in France

The Rencontres SIG La Lettre took place at the ENSG of Marne-la-Vallée (May, 12-14). STAR-APIC attended on booths D4-D5 to introduce its last technologic news. We also presented at the related conference in the 3D stream.

Other exhibitions gave STAR-APIC the opportunity to present its solutions:

- The Futur en Seine event, organized by Cap Digital, took place from the 29th of May to the 7th of June, in 13 locations across the Ile-de-France. STAR-APIC attended this festival of the digital city which was open to the general public.
- The HyperUrbain 2 Symposium took place, on the 3rd and 4th of June, at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris. This new event was focused on the mapped city.
- The West GIS Days (Journées Géomatiques de l'Ouest) took place in June (15-16) in La Roche-sur-Yon. This annual meeting gathered the GIS community from western France, local authorities, public services, private companies, training and research centers, etc.

### More information:

[www.imagina.mc](http://www.imagina.mc),  
[www.sig-la-lettre.com/?Rencontres-de-SIG-la-Lettre-2009-a-ENSCG](http://www.sig-la-lettre.com/?Rencontres-de-SIG-la-Lettre-2009-a-ENSCG),  
[www.hyperurbain.net](http://www.hyperurbain.net),  
[www.futur-en-seine.fr](http://www.futur-en-seine.fr),  
[www.ouest-geomatique.org](http://www.ouest-geomatique.org)

## STAR-APIC represented on the Monegasque coast...

STAR-APIC was present at the Imagina 2009 exhibition in February in Monaco. During this event dedicated to 3D technologies, STAR-APIC, as leader of the Terra Magna project, introduced work relating to 3D urban environment modelling.

## ...and in the south of France

On the 31st of March in Montpellier, SIG-LR (GIS - Languedoc-Roussillon) organized a professional day on mobile GIS. Frédéric Clerget, GIS expert at Lyonnaise des Eaux France, introduced the range of mobile STAR-APIC applications and solutions used for the management of water networks in Carpentras.

## Focus on local authorities, police forces and datacenters in Belgium and Luxembourg

Many cities and local authorities have shown their interest in the land management solutions presented by STAR-APIC at the recent Salon des Mandataires, the main Belgian event for Local Authority and Regional Government managers. The event, held in February, confirmed the Group's success with Local Government and other public administrations.

From the 20th to the 22nd of April, STAR-APIC attended the INFOPOL exhibition in KorktrijkXpo. The different Group solutions dedicated to police forces were presented.

STAR-APIC also attended the DataCenter Today Congress organized in Brussels on 31st of March, and the Storage & Security Forum organized in Luxemburg on 8th and 9th of June. Datacenter managers heard a presentation on the STAR-APIC CABLE One DataCenter solution and were able to view live demonstrations.



### More information:

[www.salondesmandataires.be](http://www.salondesmandataires.be),  
[www.xpo112.be/infopol/](http://www.xpo112.be/infopol/),  
[www.exhibitions.tnab.be/page/28/Intro\\_-\\_Datacenter\\_today\\_Congress](http://www.exhibitions.tnab.be/page/28/Intro_-_Datacenter_today_Congress),  
[http://www.itieurope.net/lux\\_visitante\\_carrefour\\_fr.php](http://www.itieurope.net/lux_visitante_carrefour_fr.php)

## New releases



## Elyx Office: here and now

In the last BCO issue, we introduced a focus on the technical capability of the new Elyx development. Version 1.0 of Elyx Office, the GIS expert client, will be available soon.

In this first version, Elyx Office will offer a set of functionality including:

- spatial analysis,
- query tools,
- network tracing, geocoding and location by address,
- plot production tools and tools to manage plot templates,
- complete legends and various representation modes,
- a single data capture and update tool,
- existing topology and drawing tools,
- capture and update attributes in Excel,
- management of projection systems,
- etc.



## Elyx Mobile

Elyx Mobile, the STAR-APIC solution for PDA, was released the 10th of March.

As a professional GIS, Elyx Mobile allows you to integrate, consult and update vector and raster data directly in the field. Its interface is intuitive and user-friendly so training isn't necessary to use the software and to make field work efficient and effective.

Elyx Mobile is a key part of the STAR-APIC Elyx product range, and integrates fully with Elyx Office, the desktop GIS solution.

### Elyx Mobile: Why? For whom?

There are many advantages of a mobile solution. Capturing data directly in the field improves data quality and avoids duplication, improves efficiency and reduces paperwork.

The software is of particular interest to those with a need to capture field data – local authorities, public services, scientists, utility network managers, police and emergency services and those working in agriculture...



### Elyx Topo

Officially launched on 11th of March, Elyx Topo (previously TRA7) is a full 3D application that decodes data from the field, to be integrated into any infrastructure design solution or geographic information system.

Enhancements in this version 1.1 for Windows PC include export to DXF and DWG formats. As a part of the Elyx range, Elyx Topo is integrated with other Elyx applications but can be run independently from STAR-APIC software.

## MERCATOR Suite 7

Mercator Suite 7, the new version of the STAR-APIC cartographic production tool, is now available! Suite 7 constitutes a major release of Mercator which highlights the adoption of PDF as the core graphic format. This provides an even more straightforward link with the general graphic industry than its predecessor (which used native GRS). This will result in a still higher throughput speed for map products, while giving the same guarantee of consistency for which Mercator is so well-known. In addition to the introduction of PDF, Mercator Suite 7 offers a whole range of new functions, enabling its users to produce maps and related products even more easily and efficiently than before. A number of these functions have been taken from MercatorDB, the database-linked version of Mercator, which will soon be available on the Suite 7 platform.

### More information:

[info@star-apic.com](mailto:info@star-apic.com)

## Mass market solution

## Business solution

## With CABLE One solution, location matters!

STAR-APIC offers a new approach to datacenter asset management with the CABLE One DataCenter solution.

With increasing reliance on Information Technology and volumes of data the datacenter is becoming more important to major organizations. With energy costs rising and pressure on expenditure it is now difficult, but essential, to optimize resources within a datacenter.

To increase the efficiency and optimize resources the datacenter manager has to answer three important questions:

- Where is my IT equipment located and in

which environment (servers, racks, computers, cables, connectors, etc.)?

- What is the capacity and energy consumption of my equipment (from the rack to the connector)?
- How are my devices connected and linked?

STAR-APIC offers a new approach to managing the physical IT equipment within datacenters: with CABLE One DataCenter location matters!

CABLE One DataCenter has been used successfully for many years by major multinationals in many different business sectors (Telecom, Banking, Distribution and Energy) to manage their datacenters.

### More information:

[datacenter@star-apic.com](mailto:datacenter@star-apic.com)

## New from geolives

Created as a joint venture by STAR-APIC and Géomatic Ingénierie SA (Switzerland), Geolives, via the web site [www.geolives.com](http://www.geolives.com), has been available for a year now, giving access to the best topographic maps for all of your outdoor activities. Thanks to Geolives, you can plan and share routes across Europe from one single account and download à la carte! Initially supported on mobile solutions such as Smartphones, Geolives is now available for Windows Mobile and Symbian Smartphones and will be soon available for iPhone too!

Geolives has also worked in collaboration with the French National Geographic Institute on the Georando DVD edition. 3 new off line DVDs have just been released: Gard Hérault, Provence and Pyrénées Orientales.

Geolives is also preparing a cycling DVD for Holland, in collaboration with ANWB.

### More information:

[www.geolives.com](http://www.geolives.com)



## Focus on Elyx

# Chambéry Métropole: migration to Elyx

The Communauté d'Agglomération de Chambéry Métropole is made up of 24 communes with some 126000 inhabitants. Between, lakes and mountains, Chambéry is situated near the Alps and covers approximately 26300 hectares. The authority, which employs some 420 staff, manages water distribution and sewerage, waste collection and processing, sports centres, economic and urban development, and transport.

In 1997, the Water Service, previously a service of the Chambéry City, took on the supply for the whole area and kept its STAR-APIC licenses (WinSTAR, STARGIS), which they had bought in 1993. Ten years later, the Information Systems Direction was created with, among other responsibilities, GIS administration. A specific application to manage the water network was implemented in 2006 including an interface with the Porteau water network modelling software. Besides the STAR-APIC software that constitutes the main GIS, Chambéry also uses other tools and applications that require data to be converted between different formats.

### Why do we want to migrate to Elyx?

In 2008, we contacted STAR-APIC and we suggested two projects:

- to enhance the water application with improved flow information, and implementation of an interface to sewerage applications and Canoë (a modelling package)
- to rationalize our system architecture by migrating our data to a central Oracle database.

Following the Elyx launch last year, STAR-APIC suggested that both these projects could be implemented within the new software. They offered us the option to become a pilot site for the new Elyx software and the latest network management applications. The GIS team, strengthened by So-

phie Laboisse, water and sewerage network management specialist, accepted this proposition without any hesitation.



The Chambéry Métropole GIS team

### The migration project steps

#### System Environment

The migration to Elyx has allowed us to review our server architecture, to redefine our operations modes, to implement metadata management and to work on the migration to RGF93.

#### Data modelling and translation

A new data model definition was developed in collaboration with STAR-APIC (from standard types provided in the software and adapted to our needs). We also provided a range of data dumps, and different data files including a complete description of our network data. Data translation (via FME) was developed by the STAR-APIC team.

#### Installation, training

In March 2009, beta versions of Elyx Manager and Elyx Office tools were installed by STAR-APIC on our servers. We were trained to use these tools so that we could setup our work spaces, access rights, define the representation styles, and control data within Elyx Office. Version 1.0 of Elyx Office will be soon delivered.

#### Data validation

After an initial data migration, we have checked the data (both via Oracle and Elyx Office) to ensure that no information was lost, and to finalize the data transfer procedures.

#### Definition of working modes

The interfaces to link with the Porteau and Canoë applications are under development. We had hoped that it would be possible to implement full production on the new system in May, but due to internal constraints, this has been delayed until September or October. However, we will go into production for the maintenance of our street network as the controls and modification procedures are developed.

Then, we will have the summer to get used to the creation of new data layers, and to prepare our plot and graphic output and to test the possibilities offered by Elyx, before a complete migration in September.

#### Our expectations and future plans

The migration to Oracle Locator allows us to rationalize our architecture and the installation of Elyx using Terminal Services architecture will simplify GIS maintenance and deployment.

Elyx Manager gives us advanced GIS management functionality including strict data definitions, user's management, and data rights administration. This will increase the quality of our data.

The tools in Elyx Office allow us to manage and maintain our networks more accurately and efficiently.

Even though we aren't in full production yet, the new tools look really promising and we are really happy with the support STAR-APIC has provided during the project.

Marlène Desbois,  
Communauté d'Agglomération  
de Chambéry Métropole



## Elyx, INSPIRE compatible

Four years ago STAR-APIC launched a solution that allows government organizations that manage and maintain geographic data to prepare themselves for the INSPIRE Directive.

The GeoSpatial Hub solution, which has been highly successful, allows administrations to resolve two problems simultaneously:

- internally: to organize reference data within a centralized warehouse which allows data to be shared and integrated between different users, and on the other hand, to support an internal Geo-portal.
- externally: to publish information required by the INSPIRE Directive to the relevant administrations.

The latest version of GeoSpatial Hub, with its components Elyx Office, Elyx Web, Elyx ETL and Elyx Manager, is a solution that centralizes the administration of reference data and so could constitute an element of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) according to the principals of

the INSPIRE Directive. Indeed, this solution offers, on one hand, all the necessary tools to allow centralized data management by making them available to internal GIS business applications, and on the other hand, the GeoSpatial Hub service oriented architecture offers the ability to publish metadata, data and services according to OGC standards (WMS, WFS, ISO 19115,...). These elements become available to any authorized Geoportal of the INSPIRE network. The internal SDI can become an internal node within the INSPIRE network.

So by organizing their internal data centrally, and to open standards, administrations that choose the GeoSpatial Hub become INSPIRE compatible.

## Mercator is on the move

In UK and Ireland, the Mercator system has been installed and successfully used in two related industries; one is with the Highways Agency related to the transport of goods, the other is with Dublin Bus and the public transport system within the city. What is common to both is the need for up to date accurate information presented through clear, well-designed map graphics which is ideal for Mercator's capabilities.



### and TruckStop Guide 2009

The Highways Agency (HA) was first established in 1994, as an executive agency of the Department for Transport in England.

The HA is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and all-purpose trunk roads, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. The network consists of approximately 2700km of motorways and 4350km of all purpose trunk roads. The network makes up only 3% of all the roads in England, but carries one-third of all road traffic and two-thirds of all freight traffic.

The aim is "Safe roads, Reliable journeys, Informed travellers" and all of HA's work is framed around delivery of this objective. The installed Mercator system is intended to meet the aim above by providing safe and reliable information to the public, by taking live road networking data (GIS) with Ordnance Survey (GB) base vector mapping and producing up-to-date traditional and electronic mapping automatically on a regular monthly basis for both internal and public use. It is also proposed to use Mercator to produce other catalogues of mapping using GIS derived datasets and/or other digital mapping sources.

The latest production task was to produce the HA's TruckStop Guide which is to be distributed late spring 2009.

This is a guide which is provided free of charge to truckers from all over Europe who visit the UK and require overnight stops with safe and

secure parking. The Mercator team was given one week to produce 91 truck stop site plans. The location of each site was supplied as a longitude and latitude point. The complete task was done within a week. Conventionally, it would have taken at least an hour and a half per map, which would have been equivalent to more than a month for all of them.

It is envisaged that over the next year HA will be replacing the majority of the current manually based mapping with Mercator based products. The procedures will develop further within Mercator to increase efficiency and to provide a central cartographic production tool that will ensure that mapping styles are standardised and improved upon across the Agency.

By Shirley Godhbani,  
Geographic Information Manager,  
Highways Agency.

## Dublin Bus and Customised On-Street Information

Dublin Bus is a public transport company that was formed in 1987. It is a subsidiary of Coras Iompair Eireann (CIE). It plays a key part in the transport system of the capital as its services are critical to the functioning of the city. Dublin Bus is committed to improving its Public Transport information and has undertaken various projects to do this including the redesign of route and timetable information for commuters at bus stops throughout the network in Dublin. Our overall aim for information is to achieve greater simplicity, clarity and effectiveness basically giving our customers what they need or want through the different mediums that we use on-street, web, brochures, etc.

On street information at bus stops include Carousels, Bus Panels and Shelter Panels. Shelter Panels currently display route maps and account for 18% of our on-street network. The introduction of Shelter Panel information with the inclusion of route maps began as a small project and has doubled over the last couple of years. STAR-APIC has provided Dublin Bus with the Mercator suite of cartographic publishing software and the necessary training to enable the provision of route maps on the Shelter Panels since the introduction of this type of information display. STAR-APIC has also recently provided Dublin Bus with workflow optimisation solutions to enable us to maintain and update our data as efficiently as possible by improving efficiencies in the production procedures. This is achieved by:

- Enabling Dublin Bus to produce and maintain a centred area map for every individual bus stop.

- The bus stop locator symbol will be automatically placed, but can be moved by the operator if required.
- When Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) supplies an update of the Dublin large scale base mapping, it is now easier to update the area maps with the revisions.

Although this Workflow Optimisation Project is constantly evolving, Dublin Bus has already achieved benefits through the reduction of the production time for a route change; down from 2 days to 1 day on the routes that have been defined.

In addition to the above STAR-APIC has also provided the required training to improve the overall presentation of the maps in keeping with our overall objective of simplicity clarity and effectiveness.

By Fiona Bruce,  
Information Executive,  
Dublin Bus.



### More information:

For more information on the Mercator cartographic production software,  
[info@star-apic.com](mailto:info@star-apic.com)

## An overview of Dublin Bus's operations

- 145 million passengers per annum in the Greater Dublin Area.
- A fleet of 1,079 buses serving 170 routes.
- 3,400 staff, of which 2,500 drivers.
- 5,000 bus stops in the network, of which 18% display route maps, with this number steadily growing.

bco is a publication of the  
STAR-APIC Group, GIS software  
editor.

**Belgium:** Liège Science Park -  
Avenue du Pré Ailly 24 - B-4031 Angleur (Liège)  
**France :** 191, avenue Aristide Briand.  
94230 Cachan

### United Kingdom:

The Stables, Cannons Mill Lane,  
Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 2BN  
**Publisher:** Issam Tannous.

**Editorial board:** Aurélie Millis, Carole Thomas.  
**Contributed to this issue:** Philippe Berle,  
Christian Cabron, Michel Counotte, Thierry de  
Tombeur, Paul Duré, Valérie Hénique, Pierre-  
Jean Lautier, Patrice Lejeune, Hubert Lorang,  
Stuart Miller, Roland Mousset, Yves Peeters,  
Tom Timms, Éric Toussaint.

**Acknowledgment to** Marlène DESBOIS (Com-  
munauté d'Agglomération de Chambéry Métro-  
pole), Shirley GODHBANI (Highways Agency)  
and Fiona BRUCE (Dublin Bus).

