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## Intelligent Addressing Takes UK's Leading Role in European Address Harmonisation Project

Intelligent Addressing (IA) is taking a leading role as Britain's sole representative in the EURADIN (EUROpean ADdresses INfrastructure) project. The EURADIN project, which runs over two years, aims to contribute to the harmonisation of European addresses, propose solutions for interoperability and access facilitating the creation of new value added products and services across Europe. The results of the project will be used as a reference for all European member states to fulfil their obligations under the INSPIRE directive. From 2009 any new address datasets across Europe will have to accommodate the agreed data structure and any existing datasets by 2016.

With no common standards for spatial data across Europe, INSPIRE seeks to lay down rules for interoperability and harmonisation of spatial information establishing a framework for coordinating the use and implementation of such data for the purposes of Community environmental policies. The established standards will enable users to identify and access spatial or geographical information from a wide range of sources, for a wide variety of applications. The importance of addresses is fully recognised within the INSPIRE framework for government, business and the citizen.

The EURADIN project has 30 participants from 16 countries working on 9 different work packages. The project aims to build a 'Best Practice Network' in order to promote address harmonisation after the project is complete. Specifically EURADIN focuses on existing address data aggregation, an analysis of best practice in terms of address definition, registration and maintenance and will deliver proposals for data, metadata, dataflow and business models. The main outcome will be a specific proposal for the 'European Address Infrastructure' and the implementation and testing of a technical pilot.

Unusually IA qualifies as a partner in EURADIN on three counts; as a content provider, a public sector user and a technology partner providing unique experience and insight based on its involvement with the NLPG (National Land and Property Gazetteer) since 1999. As recognised experts in this field IA is involved in 4 of the 9 work packages; Data, Metadata, Dataflow and Business Models. IA brings particular expertise based on the UK implementation of ISO 19112 at both a local, national and trans-national level (England-Wales).

"We are delighted to be working right at the heart of the EURADIN project," said Michael Nicholson, Managing Director of Intelligent Addressing. "It is gratifying to know that the experience we have gained with the NLPG over the last nine years and the benefits that have accrued as a result will be available to this wider European harmonisation project," continued Nicholson.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

**Intelligent Addressing** is a specialist private sector consultancy (an SME) employing recognised experts in addressing. It was originally set up to help develop the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) on behalf of local government and now manages the NLPG and NSG central data hubs under the terms of the Mapping Services Agreement (MSA) with local government.

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**The NLPG** was initiated in 1999 to become the master address dataset for England and Wales and the central hub for the 376 address creating Local Authorities and their Local Land and Property Gazetteers (LLPGs). Based on unique property reference numbers (UPRNs) the underlying principle of these gazetteers is to provide a single definitive address database for all departments and systems across a local authority in order to cut costs, improve efficiency and service delivery.

The dataset enables various local authority departments – from revenue collection and environmental health, to social security, the electoral roll and education – to now offer true ‘joined up’ government. The benefits also go beyond service delivery. Fraud prevention, tax collection and disaster planning all benefit from the fact that each property is given a ‘Unique Property Reference Number’ which transcends (property) numbers, names, descriptions (such as ‘The Nursing Home’) and postcodes. UPRNs are assigned for the full life of the plot and/or building.

The project was given a significant boost in 2005 with the introduction of the Mapping Services Agreement, which committed all Local Authorities to bringing their gazetteers up to standard and to start submitting regular updates to the NLPG hub for use by national and regional organisations. Collaboration with DNA-S (Definitive National Addressing for Scotland) who use the same BS7666 processes and database schemas means that the a British addressing infrastructure is now a reality.

The **Improvement and Development Agency** (IDeA) The IDeA works in partnership with all councils, to enhance the performance of the best, accelerate the speed of improvement of the rest, and develop the sector as a whole. IDeA has brokered the Mapping Services Agreement (MSA) with Intelligent Addressing to develop the NLPG and NSG, through the Local Government Information House (LGIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Agency.

Working in partnership with the local government community developing national infrastructure projects that enable councils to deliver local services more effectively, LGIH acts as an intermediary between the public and the private sector enabling it to negotiate with private companies on behalf of local authorities in order to provide key parts of a technical infrastructure for improved service delivery.

The NLPG is a joint venture between the Information House and Intelligent Addressing Limited.

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