ISPRS Scientific Initiatives: Announcement of 2019 Funding

By Songnian Li, ISPRS Treasurer

In accordance with the statutory mission and activities of ISPRS, the Society shall provide funds to support scientific and other initiatives, which will further improve its international status in the field of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, and will therefore benefit all ISPRS members. The Scientific Initiatives is a program ISPRS has carried out for one of its focuses on science and development. After two rounds of calls for Scientific Initiatives projects for 2014, 2015 and 2017 physical years, the Council issued a new call in June 2018 for 2019 projects, with an original total budget of 60,000 Swiss Francs.

By the submission deadline, fifteen proposals were received from the five Technical Commissions. Comments were sought from the relevant Technical Commission Presidents, and a sub-committee of three Council members was convened to perform independent review of the proposals based on their topics and objectives, scientific merits, quality of proposal and budget, as well as value to and promotion of ISPRS. The sub-committee then came up with a ranked list of projects and based on the ranking seven projects were recommended to the Council for approval, with a total budget of 55,000 Swiss Francs approved. Brief summaries of the awarded projects will be posted soon at http://www.isprs.org/society/si/default.aspx.

Title	PI(s)	Affiliation of PI(s)	Country	TC
ISPRS benchmark on multi-sensorial indoor mapping and positioning	Cheng Wang	Xiamen University	China	I
Development of an open source multi-view and multimodal feature marching tool for photogrammetric applications	Diego González-Aguilera	University of Salamanca	Spain	II
International Benchmarking of terrestrial Image-based Point Clouds for Forestry	Markus Hollaus, Martin Mokroš, Yunsheng Wang	TU Wien, Czech University of Life Sciences, Finnish Geospatial Research Institute	Austria, Czech Republic, Finland	III
GeoBIM benchmark: reference study on software support for open standards of city and building models	Francesca Noardo	TU Delft	Netherlands	IV
The ISPRS Benchmark Test on Indoor Modelling	Kourosh Khoshelham	University of Melbourne	Australia	IV
Capacity building for object detection and tracking in UAV videos using deep learning	K. Vani	Anna University	India	V

The Council looks forward to hearing of the success of the funded projects and reporting the outcomes through this and other media in due course. Project investigators are asked to consider presenting and publishing project outcomes in ISPRS events, Archives, Annals or in the two ISPRS journals (*ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, and *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*), as well as a summary for the ISPRS e-Bulletin and other magazines such as *GIM* and *Geoinformatics*. Reports on Scientific Initiative projects funded in 2014, 2015 and 2017 can be found at http://www.isprs.org/society/si/default.aspx.