

Govt considering independent regulator for geospatial sector

Sees prospects for capturing significant part of outsourcing market

Our Bureau

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The Union Government is considering bringing in a National Geospatial Data Authority Bill, which will enable users to access requisite data and promote the applications of geospatial technologies.

Speaking at a seminar, Mr Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, said, "We need to do much more to realise the opportunities to snatch an advantage in the geospatial sector. For this, we need to have an independent regulator (National Geospatial Data Regulatory Authority) for geospatial affairs due to the increasing demand for geospatial data and participation by the private sector."

"The global economic slowdown has been disastrous for several sectors, but I believe that the geospatial industry will not face such a crisis as most of geospatial technologies-based projects are large in nature and public sector based and thus having pre-allocated budgets," he added.

According to him, India has good prospects for capturing a significant part of the outsourcing market, especially from Europe.

The Union Minister, who was addressing the 4-day Map World conference, also said that the adoption of 3D light detection and ranging (LIDAR) instruments is driving the creation of very accurate and detailed 3D



The Vice-President, Dr Hamid Ansari, looks at a replica of the unmanned air vehicle (UAV) that was on display at an exhibition organised during the four-day Map World Forum conference in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The Union Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Kapil Sibal, and the State Industries Minister, Dr J. Geetha Reddy, are in the picture. -

Mohammed Yousuf

construction, terrain and urban models.

CLASS-NEUTRAL

The Vice-President, Mr Hamid Ansari, in his address said that technology is increasingly becoming class-neutral, with its benefits not being limited to economically

better-off sections of society.

"Yet, the technological dexterity of geospatial data and the immense commercial and economic utility brought about by convergence pose a few dilemmas. The utility of geospatial systems for land records is very obvious, but its implementation, however,

has not made much headway," he said.

The Vice-President also said that like any technology, geospatial technologies could be used either for welfare of mankind or to its detriment.

"The solution to this would not be in capping the use of

technologies or in preventing access. The constructive option lies in better regulation of geospatial data and of relevant stakeholders.

A fine balance is needed to allow geospatial technologies to flourish without compromising on national security concerns," he added.