

Name: Robin McLaren

Key Skills: National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategy formulation
Business cases to justify investments in Information Systems
Information Management / Systems / Technology strategy development
Business change
Technology procurement
Project management (design and implementation)
Volunteered Geographic Information strategy development
Audit of GIS / SDI projects
Land Reform policies in Developing Countries and Countries in Transition

Profile

Robin has over thirty-five years' experience in the design, implementation and management of geospatial information systems. Initially this was with the system providers, but for the last twenty-five years he has been providing independent consulting services internationally to public and private organisations investing in innovative location enabled applications and has also been supporting land policy initiatives in developing countries.

He is currently director of Know Edge Ltd an independent management consulting company formed in 1986 specialising in optimising the use and business benefits of geospatial information within organisations through the strategic design and implementation of Information Systems and Services. The company provides objective advice to clients interested in evaluating the strategic business role of effective geospatial information management.

He has been at the forefront of the GIS revolution. In the late 1970's he developed and supported early, innovative Land Information Management solutions in continental Europe and through the early 1980's designed and implemented GIS solutions world-wide from bases in Switzerland and Canada. In 1986 he built on this strong technical and business background and established Know Edge Ltd to provide independent advice to clients investing in geospatial information management solutions. Over the past 25 years he has helped to implement over 100 corporate solutions, including National Land Registration and Cadastral Systems, utility asset information management solutions and complex Local Government land & property information management solutions. He excels at turning business requirements into effective information system solutions that deliver significant benefits to the business and citizens.

Robin is recognised as a world expert in Land Information Management and has worked extensively with the United Nations, EU and World Bank on land policy / land reform programmes to strengthen security of tenure and support economic reforms in Eastern and Central Europe, Africa, Middle-East and the Far-East.

More recently, Robin has supported national governments in formulating National Spatial Data Infrastructure strategies and led the formulation of the UK Location Strategy and supported similar initiatives in Kenya, Hungary, Iraq and Western Australia. He has also supported the implementation of INSPIRE in the UK and was recently a member of the UK Location Council.

Robin has been an active member of FIG Commission 3, Spatial Information Management, since 1994 and has published a wide range of professional papers at national and international conferences.

Robin is excellent at facilitating discussion, building consensus and thrives in complex, multi-cultural environments.

Professional Experience

1986 – present Director, Know Edge Ltd

Founder and Managing Director of a private consulting company created in September 1986 to provide independent consulting services associated with geospatial information management and the formulation of SDI strategies in the Utilities, Land Administration Agencies, Land & Property Information Management, Mapping Services, Central and Local Government, Retail and Financial Services, Environmental Management market sectors. Extensive support of land reform programmes world-wide through the United Nations, EU and World Bank.

Achievements

Developed and supported the implementation of enterprise geospatial information management strategies within a significant number of organisations in local government; water, gas and power utilities; financial services; environment agencies, sports agencies, defence agencies and mapping agencies.

Led the formulation of the UK Location Strategy and was a founding member of the UK Location Council.

Member of the UK Location Programme team implementing the EU INSPIRE Directive in the UK.

Supported the procurement of large, complex enterprise geospatial information management solutions.

Technical Advisor to the Hungarian Government during the 1990s on their land restitution and reform programme.

Supported land reform programmes in Mongolia, Philippines, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Iraq, Hungary, Slovakia, Estonia, Poland and Russia.

Honorary Fellow, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland for the last 20 years and supported and taught elements of the M.Sc. in Geographic Information Science.

1984 -1986 Product Manager, Wild Leitz Canada

Product Manager primarily responsible for a new, innovative GIS (System 9) – the first to be based entirely on Relational DBMS technology. Responsibilities included the management of product requirements and the co-ordination of product release strategy between R&D and marketing.

Achievements

The design, implementation and world-wide launch of a state-of-the-art GIS product.

1980 -1984 Software Development Manager, Wild Heerbrugg AG, Switzerland

Initially senior member of a systems group to market, benchmark, install, support and extend the externally supplied Synercom Technology Inc.'s INFORMAP product world-wide outside of North America. Software activities included creating application packages for photogrammetric data capture and city cadastres. Subsequently involved in the management of a project to create a totally new GIS. Activities included: strategic planning, market research, product requirements definition, top down design, target hardware selection, project management and implementation. Project staff included 40 programming personnel distributed in North America and Europe.

Achievements

Development and support of customised GIS solutions to a world-wide network of suppliers.

1978 -1980 Software Developer, Ferranti-Cetec Graphics Ltd, UK

Applications programmer involved in the design, development, installation and support of an interactive graphics mapping and information system aimed at the European cadastral market. Major systems installed at Basel and Munich.

Achievements

Development and support of the world's first Land Information System.

Qualifications

B.Sc. (Hons) Topographic Science, University of Glasgow, Scotland (1975)

M.Sc.E. Geodesy & Geomatics Engineering, University of New Brunswick, Canada (1977)

Memberships

Professional Member of the British Computing Society (BCS)

Professional Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

Founding member of the Association for Geographic Information (AGI)

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Special Interest Groups: Graphics, Human Interface and Database.

Associate Fellow of the Remote Sensing & Photogrammetric Society

RICS Delegate to FIG Commission 3: Spatial Information Management.

Member of the Industrial Advisory Group, Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow

Honorary Fellow, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Outside Interests

Ski Mountaineering, Field Hockey, Tennis, Golf, Music, Urban Planning, Lion Taming.