

**4th India USA Space and Geospatial Business Summit**

**DATE: 2ND DECEMBER, 2024 | Venue: Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), India**

**Concept Note**

**Background**

The Indian government has recognised the importance of geospatial technology in various sectors, including agriculture, urban planning, infrastructure development, disaster management, defense, and transportation. It has taken several initiatives to promote the use of geospatial data and technology in these sectors.

**Opportunities in Geospatial and Space**

The Geospatial industry is emerging as the next ‘Big Opportunity’ worldwide, both as an ‘advancing market in itself’ as well as ‘augmenting business processes’ of mainstream IT, Engineering and Autonomous industries. ‘Data Insight’ is today the driving wheel of the knowledge economy, penetrating and integrating across workflows and processes of every industry. Data serves as ‘oil’ to the knowledge economy resulting in economic business models, greater efficiency, productivity, transparency and compliance.

Therefore, geospatial industry would continue to provide accurate and rich foundation to data infrastructure and increasingly add the 3rd dimension to ‘everything we do’ leading to ‘geospatial by default’ embedded in digital twin and metaverse impacting how humans interact with the digital and physical world in near real-time.

Increasing number of counties in the Asia Pacific region feel a compelling need for new thinking for space strategy and space activity is one of the major drivers of security systems.

**Indian Geospatial Industry Outlook**

As the global geospatial and space industry surges forward, India, playing a prominent role, is keeping pace. Projections indicate that the Indian geospatial market is set to surpass INR 63,000 crore ($8 billion) by 2025, while the Indian space industry has already reached $9 billion. With a robust Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4%, India is positioned to outperform the global CAGR of 2%. By 2030, the Indian geospatial market is expected to soar to $77 billion, and by 2040, an impressive $100 billion.

This notable growth momentum is attributed to the introduction of India's National Geospatial Policy in 2022 and the Space Policy in 2023, alongside the National Drone Policy. These policies have not only strengthened India's geospatial industries but also accelerated growth within the Indian space sector. As per an estimate, India’s total domestic Geospatial market is set to reach INR 1 lakh crore by 2030 creating 1 lakh jobs in both Government and private sectors by 2030. At global level, geospatial market is expected to grow to reach USD 1.34 trillion by 2030.

**Geospatial Industry and World Economy**

As geospatial industry is maturing and mainstreaming, associated trade and commerce is gaining momentum too, duly augmented by public policy reforms towards commercialization and industrialization of geospatial technology and infrastructure globally. There have been several policy initiatives towards opening up of data and facilitation of private sector engagement through incubation programs.

This has played a key role in scalability of applications and maturing of user adoption levels. However, growing demand of geospatial services and harnessing huge business potential would require greater partnerships with commercial enterprises, and therefore it is imperative for progressive stakeholders to play a proactive role in developing ‘geospatial infrastructure’ and creating a conducive and enabling business environment, and promoting trade and commerce in global market.

**Cooperation between India and USA**

Historically, India and the United States have had a long-standing commitment to qualitatively transform their strategic business partnership, particularly by investments and commitments, in technology knowledge sharing. The India–United States (US) partnership—pivotal in maintaining international security and order—could yet be the defining one for this century.

The US is India’s most comprehensive strategic partner, and cooperation between the two extends across multiple areas such as trade, defence, multilateralism, intelligence, cyberspace, civil nuclear energy, education, and healthcare. As the two nations venture into a new decade, they must articulate a new agenda for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region which they are both committed to keeping “free and open”. The sectors that will be key to shaping the arc of a strong Indo-US relationship in the years ahead are the emerging technologies; national security and defence cooperation; counterterrorism; and trade.

**Science &Technology and Space Cooperation**

The Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement signed in October 2005, was renewed for 10 years in September 2019. The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), promotes cooperation in S &T and innovation. U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and India’s DST, MeiTY and DBT signed Implementation Arrangements to support research collaboration in AI, advanced communication networks, quantum science, Internet of Things, Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System, biotechnology manufacturing, bio safety and biosecurity.

Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology [iCET] was launched by the National Security Advisors in Washington, DC on 31 January 2023 to facilitate strategic technology collaborations in critical and emerging technologies, co-development and co-production and connect the respective innovation ecosystems especially in AI, quantum, telecom, space, biotech, semiconductors, emerging defence technologies and biotech. The second iCET meeting was held in New Delhi on 13-14 June 2023.

**Defense/ Geospatial Intelligence Cooperation**

Over the past two decades, the U.S.-India defense relationship has benefitted immensely from productive senior government dialogues. These talks culminated in the signing of four foundational defense agreements, most recently the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) on geospatial intelligence. The two countries also hold regular military exercises between the U.S. and Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. Great strides have been made on deepening government-to government cooperation. Beyond the few well-known joint ventures, greater industrial cooperation between U.S. and Indian private sector defense firms can enhance the defense relationship. While India is a major buyer of U.S. defense equipment, the $20 billion in exports to India in recent years is just a fraction of what is possible.

**Cooperation in Commercial Geospatial Trade and Commerce**

In the geospatial domain, United States is top trading partner for India and accounts for 83% of the total USD 1.45 billion geospatial technology and enabled services exports by India globally. And India imports in geospatial technology and products to the tune of approximately USD 350 million dollars from United States.

Indo-US cooperation Geospatial Data is a leading component of the U.S-India space Cooperative efforts, the area in which both the US and India are both world-class leaders. Commercially, the annual bilateral trade and geospatial services is estimated at over $1billion, which continues to grow rapidly. The United States, the biggest market for Indian IT and IT enabled services exports and imports, accounts for 60-75% of the exports and imports globally. This is the case for geospatial trade and commerce as well.

**About Geospatial World Chamber of Commerce (GWCC)**

Geospatial World Chamber of Commerce (GWCC) – a non-profit body, headquartered in India, has been established by Geospatial World to promote trade and commerce globally, and with special attention to facilitating growth of trade and commerce of Indian geospatial industry with primary partner countries of India in the context of evolving geo-political world order.

GWCC strives to facilitate dialogues on open trade and commerce advocating towards developing level playing fields and ease of doing business practices for commercial companies at global levels with primary partner countries of India in the context of evolving geo-political world order. We are as much committed to nurture and promote Indian industry growth in international market as we aim to facilitating participation of overseas companies in Indian market and enabling establishment of their businesses and supporting their engagement and partnership with Indian stakeholders.

**Rationale**

There is a pressing need to strengthen bilateral business forums that provide mechanisms to promote and strengthen trade and commerce in the field of geospatial and space technology between two countries. Geo-Political alliance and bilateral agreements does provide an excellent atmosphere wherein we could leverage friendly and cultural ties to grow trade and commerce significantly. As space infrastructure and geospatial services serve as the foundation of digital ecosystem, such an engaging collaboration may also help adding new dimensions to overall business relations in the field of Climate Change, Smart Cities, IT and Engineering industry.

In the last 2 years, GWCC did organise Bilateral Business Summits with USA, Japan, Australia, France and Sweden receiving quite an encouraging participation and response. In fact, such exercise is helping augment our young space and geospatial industry to understand trade and commerce opportunities as well as underlying role of government to facilitate and extend institutional framework to grow the bilateral business potential.

**Roundtable meeting with MEA, India**

In the last quarter of year 2023, GWCC organised a high-level meeting with Ministry of External Affairs, (MEA, India), which was attended by about 20 + Indian missions, and we have successfully advocated including geospatial and space industry as part of India’s trade relations and especially its economic aid program as also include the same in emerging and critical technology initiatives of Government of India. Over the next few quarters, we shall be organizing trade missions to and from USA, France, Sweden, Holland, Germany Australia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Japan, etc as well as develop white papers and resources. We do foresee a huge growth for space and geospatial industry and their interdependent nature makes it obvious to collaborate and showcase entire value chain.

**Trade Mission**

As part of our mission, we organised the first ever Indian Space and Geospatial Industry Trade Mission to France and Sweden respectively on 11-12 and 13-15 December in Paris and Stockholm. The Trade Mission was widely supported and welcomed by our Government, Institutional and Industry partners and stakeholders.

**India USA Space and Geospatial Business Summit**

**The 1st India USA Geospatial Business Summit** was organised on June 02, 2022, on the sides of GeoBuiz 2022 Summit, in Monterey, California. While the Business Summit witnessed active and engaging participation of the thought leaders from both the countries, the recommendations and insights drawn from Summits are significant in the context of Geospatial ecosystems. The recommendations and conclusions drawn did emphasise on continued engagement and encourage cooperation in the field of technology transfer, manufacturing, and joint ventures in the field. Additionally, strategic recommendation was made to expand India-US business relations to Indo-Pacific region especially leveraging geospatial and space capabilities of the two countries to support developing countries and common partners in Indo-Pacific region.

**The 2nd India-USA Geospatial and Space Business Summit** was organized on November 15, 2022 as part of GeoSmart India conference at Hyderabad International Convention Centre in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. The one-day summit witnessed participation from the key stakeholders from government agencies, civil society, private sector, and academia and research fraternity from both the countries – USA and India. With Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India as Co-Organiser in November 2022. The Bilateral Business summit was also supported by Indo America Chamber of Commerce (IACC).

**The 3rd India USA Geospatial & Space Business Summit** was organized at New Delhi, India on June 2023 in partnership with IN-SPACe and US Department of State as Co-Organiser and Geospatial World (GW) as Knowledge Partner. The Bilateral Business summit was also supported by Indo America Chamber of Commerce (IACC) as strategic partner.

In the above backdrop and pursuing forward the recommendations and directions provided by our stakeholders, GWCC is organising the **4th India USA Space and Geospatial Business Summit** in India on 2nd December, 2024 coinciding with GeoSmart India, 2024 | Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), India.

The India USA Space and Geospatial Business Summit would not only offer platform to commercial sector of the two countries strengthen business cooperation but would provide commercial mechanism to implement provisions and commitments made by political and diplomatic leadership under the umbrella of Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) that has included trade and commerce of space and geospatial services.

**Tentative Programme Agenda**

0900 – 0930 Networking Tea and Breakfast

0930 – 1000 Opening Session

1000 – 1100 Decade Ahead: Geospatial and Space Market Opportunities between India and USA

1100 – 1130 Networking Tea/Coffee

1130 – 1215 Commercial and Civil Geospatial Application – Analytics, Data & Utilities

1215– 1300 NISAR and Civil Space: Industry Collaborations and Joint Venture

1300– 1400 Networking Lunch

1400 – 1600 Round Table on India USA Geospatial and Space Cooperation with QUAD: Expanding the Horizon to Indo –Pacific Region

1600 – 1630 Closing Remarks

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