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## William Priest, Geospatial Commission, UK Government

United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress  
*The Geospatial Way to a Better World*  
19 November 2018

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## The geospatial moment for the UK

UK government has committed to maximise the value from geospatial data and to help enable the digital economy

Geospatial Commission is being established with £80 million of initial funding



Geospatial data and technologies empowers:  
a **smart government** and a **smart nation**


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## Geospatial data offers an economic and social value opportunity


- The **data revolution** is changing the way we live, work, and travel
- New technologies that drive use, collection and storage of this data are **increasing the relevance and quality** of geospatial data
- Better geospatial data is then providing us with **new insights** about efficiencies in a range of sectors - from housing to finance - increasing the potential to be more productive

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## There is a strong digital thread connecting government programmes







**National Productivity Investment Fund:** £37 billion fund investing in areas critical to productivity

**Industrial Strategy:** Focusing on boosting UK productivity with investment in skills, industries and infrastructure, to equip the UK for the fourth industrial revolution

**Understanding the value of data:** Discussion paper on the economic value of data and the challenges to address to strengthen the UK's position as a world leader in data-driven innovation

**Smart government:** Technology innovation in government survey to look at current activity in emerging technologies across government

**National Data strategy:** to unlock the power of data in the UK economy and government, while building public confidence in its use

**Future of mobility:** One of the "Grand Challenges" - government developing a strategy for the future of urban mobility, and how to support innovation across the country

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## The productivity opportunity

- Productivity growth has slowed globally in the last 10 years, but the slowdown in the UK was particularly acute.
- Since 2010, the government has provided over **£500 billion** in capital investment, increased investment in skills, and reduced taxes for business to boost investment, and help drive up productivity

**Chart 2 – Labour productivity relative to trend**  
Log scale, 1977=100

Sources:ONS and Bank calculations.

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## We have identified the key geospatial areas where we can unlock economic value

- Analysis has identified a potential **£6-11 billion per annum** economic value from private sector use cases from better use and adoption of geospatial data.
- This identified five key sectors where the highest latent value was:
  - Retail and logistics
  - Property and land
  - Infrastructure and construction
  - Mobility
  - Natural resources
- Informed by this, we have identified projects which can help deliver this value

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## Creating more effective and efficient public services

**Public services:**

- Environmental management
- Emergency services
- Transport networks
- Housing and planning

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## Developing the UK's geospatial ecosystem

To help create the right environment to realise the potential value, the Commission will support projects in the following key areas:

- Improving data assets and standards (quality / usability / interoperability and access)
- Growing innovation
- Driving adoption of geospatial technology and applications
- Improving skills, capability and resources
- Understanding the future technology landscape

The Commission will use its resources over the next two years and beyond to fund and implement a range of projects to inform and support the emerging National Geospatial Strategy.

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### What we have delivered since Spring 2018:

- We have started to develop the **UK's National Geospatial Strategy**
- We have announced our **initial investments**:
  - Investment and asset map
  - Crowdsourcing location data to improve efficiency of data collection
  - Identifying underground assets
- We have been **raising awareness** of geospatial, sector wide:
  - Holding engagement events across the UK with 500 public and private sector organisations
  - 10 Downing Street hosted geospatial leaders for the first time to discuss government priorities for the sector
- **Engaging internationally** - to learn from and share with others

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