

Virtual Conference Pair on

Geospatial Startups - Academia: Opportunities and Challenges

Dates: 11th September and 25th September 2020

Time: 10:00 – 13:00 hrs

Background & Motivation

Geospatial technologies have traditionally been perceived as a distinct discipline compared to the software industry in India. Compared to the common IT industry, for a multitude of reasons, graduates have often been faced with relatively modest salary offers from the geospatial industry. Turning for a better, demands and developments in the last decade have seen the blurring of boundaries between common IT and geospatial industries leading their amalgamation as standard IT products and services. Last decade has also seen the emergence of technological and people-friendly policy initiatives of leading national space agencies offering updated multi-source satellite remote sensing and other GIS data on freely accessible platforms.

New technologies – endless opportunities: The evolution of Cloud, Smart Mobile, IoT, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Drones etc. have radically changed the landscape of geospatial products and applications. Thanks to the wider reach and affordability of technology platforms and commercial viability, the present generation of young and experienced geospatial professionals no longer consider corporate employment as the best career choice; rather launch their own. The entry-level geospatial corporate ecosystem has caught with launches of several thousands of start-ups with core or major focus on geospatial technologies.

Indian geospatial industry has been undergoing a permanent impact transformation with start-up ecosystem leading the growth of the overall industry outlook. A substantial number of these start-ups are launched by youngsters who have no formal degree or experience in geospatial technology.

Aim:

This virtual pair of conferences is aimed at discussing the opportunities, challenges in geospatial start-ups and career suggestions for Indian graduates and working professionals of geospatial technology.

Themes:

To catalyse thorough interactions while conforming to the limits of healthy online screen time per day, the event will be held as two distinct but joint conferences on two different dates. Expert thematic talks form the core of the events.

**Part-1: Geospatial start-ups - Academia: Seeding, Nurturing and Growing
(11th September 2020)**

1. Start-ups: how to start? University incubation hubs - seeding geospatial start-ups, success stories and challenges
2. Building up knowledge partnerships- a synergy of academia and geospatial start-ups: academic curriculum, student training, knowledge generation and supply
3. Open geospatial data: free data and technology platforms for geospatial academic research, product development by start-ups
4. Government support: funding, space, infrastructure, and mentoring

**Part-2: Network and Training- Geospatial start-ups, Students and Freelancers
(25th September 2020)**

1. Internships and career opportunities for students and young professionals: evolving scenario
2. Local needs and global technologies – start-ups life cycle: innovation, integration and expansion
3. Short-term courses: essential geospatial skills for students and young professionals
4. Networks of start-ups and freelance geospatial professionals

Target Audience:

Students / researchers/ faculty / professionals / potential entrepreneurs in geospatial technology /

Jointly organized by

**IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (Kerala & Bengaluru Chapters)
Indian Society of Remote Sensing - Kerala Chapter
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology**

