

MEDIA RELEASE

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Diversity of the spatial and surveying industry highlighted by speakers

The premier Australasian spatial and surveying industry conference, **Locate14**, announces key speakers highlighting the focus of the diversity within the industry and its impact on society.

Locate14 will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 7-9 April 2014 and will be a forum to connect with industry leaders and to learn about new advancements in the industry, IT and government.

Keynote Speaker: Drew Clarke PSM, Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Communications
Drew Clarke was appointed to office in March 2013 with a portfolio that includes the ABC, SBS, Australia Post, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, the Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency and the National Broadband Network Company (NBN Co). Drew began his public sector career as a surveyor working in Australia and Antarctica, and has held leadership roles in energy policy, AusIndustry and science agencies.

Conference Closing Speaker: Rachael Robertson, former Antarctic expedition leader, Chief Ranger and leader with 20 years of 'extreme' leadership experience.

As only the second female to ever lead a team to Davis Station in Antarctica, Rachael Robertson managed a diverse group of up to 120 people in the summer months. In February, most of the team returned home and a small group of 18 remained for the 9 months of winter - in total isolation, months of darkness, and

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no way in or out. It was a leadership laboratory in the most extreme and hostile environment on Earth, where most of the theory doesn't apply.

The use of spatial technology in the Antarctic was prevalent throughout the expedition according to Rachael, "We used GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to map iceberg calving and movement. So spatial information is big news."

Prior to her experience in Antarctic, Rachael held senior operational management roles for 16 years in a range of complex and challenging environments, was Victoria's youngest Chief Ranger and led the media co-ordination unit during the Black Saturday bushfires.

Topic Speaker: Locating the Digital Economy: Denise McKenzie, Executive Director, Communications and Outreach for Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) U.K.

Denise McKenzie is responsible for the planning and execution of marketing, communications and education programs to raise awareness and increase application of open geospatial and location standards by technology providers and users worldwide. Prior to her role with OGC, Denise worked for over 12 years with the Victorian Government (Australia) in areas of strategic policy, collaboration and innovation.

Locate14 Conference and Exhibition combines three previous national events – the *spatial@gov* Conference, the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Conference (SSSC) and the Asia- Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards (APSEA) combining to form a single premier Australian and New Zealand industry event.

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