



GRT News Fall 2009



Second Board Member to Join Obama Administration

GRT Board Member Fredrick (Rick) Barton has been chosen by President Obama as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Rick currently serves as a Senior Adviser and Co-Director of the Post Conflict Reconstruction Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and is a regular writer, commentator, and contributor to global public discussions. His work is informed by 15 years of experience in nearly 30 global hot spots, including serving as UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees and as the first director of the Office of Transition Initiatives at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Rick has made very significant contributions to GRT during his tenure on its Board of Directors, particularly in strengthening the Company's approach to

Infrastructure and Asset Sensors



GRT was awarded a 12 month contract by the Maine National Guard to evaluate the use of remote sensors to monitor key infrastructure and assets critical to emergency response. The study, which is funded at approximately \$1 million, combines GRT's resources with those of the Department of Spatial Information Engineering at the University of Maine.

The objectives of the study are to evaluate sensor types that can be effectively used to (i) monitor critical infrastructure, such as dams, roads, and hospitals; and (ii) monitor and track key assets such as generators, emergency personnel, and medical supplies. Selected R&D results produced by the University of Maine will be incorporated into RDMS by GRT's software engineers.

The University of Maine team includes three senior faculty members and four graduate students, lead by Professor Mike Worboys. The Department of Spatial Information Engineering at the University of Maine is a world leader in sensor technology and geographic information systems. The project also includes an Advisory Board made up over two dozen federal, state, regional and local emergency response professionals. This Advisory Board provides operational guidelines and operation critique.

Hawaii National Guard Contract



GRT was awarded an approximately \$2 million contract by the Hawaii National Guard for implementation and support of RDMS for emergency preparedness and response. Under the contract GRT will deliver (i) 35 Motorola MC75 and 35 Trimble Nomad GXE personal digital assistants or PDAs running RDMS Collect; and (ii) 10 Thrane and Thrane Broadband Global Area Network satellite terminals or BGANs for use with RDMS Communicate.

GRT will also configure, deploy, host and maintain a RDMS Collaborate website designed to support a number of National Guard missions with a common operating picture. The field data collection system will provide the encrypted exchange of data expeditiously to an operations center located on a secure virtual network.

Having access to this near real time information as it is being collected will enable first responders and decision makers to quickly and efficiently

humanitarian affairs. We wish him well with his Senate confirmation hearing and in his important post at the United Nations.



Arthur "Art" Cleaves Joins GRT

Art Cleaves has joined GRT as VP of Operations. Art is a former Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 1, former Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, and a Colonel in the Maine National Guard. As such, Art has firsthand experience managing emergency operations centers at both the state and federal level. Art will be working closely with Tom Gerrish and the GRT Operations Center to take GRT to a whole new level of event-driven operation support. Welcome Art!

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assess damage in areas following a disaster, track and manage resources via a bar-code reader and other PDA capabilities, and execute tasks that require immediate attention. This also saves valuable resources while achieving the desired operational result.

The use of this system will be managed primarily by the Hawaii National Guard and shared with state and local agencies as well as other mission partners. Training and support will be provided from a new GRT field office to be located on the island of Oahu and staffed by experienced GRT professionals. A long line of volunteers has formed to staff this office.

USAID Haiti Project

USAID is using RDMS to collect GPS coordinates and other associated information to support program planning and implementation for approximately 570 schools throughout Haiti under the Haiti Integrated Growth through Hurricane Emergency Recovery (HIGHER) program and the Scholarship and Programme Haitien d'Appui a la Reforme de l'Education (PHARE) program.



USAID hired the American Institutes for Research (AIR), in partnership with GRT, to perform data collection and deliver to AIR a web-based interactive map that enables PHARE to access, manage and share field collected data and other points of interest on a map of Haiti with corresponding GPS coordinates identifying where schools are located.

PHARE staff has been provided RDMS Collect PDAs and training for data collections via in-country project support. AIR and the PHARE staff have also been trained to use the web-based interactive map as part of RDMS Collaborate in order to: (i) monitor and evaluate in real-time the data collection efforts; (ii) to add and upload new and additional descriptive information; and (iii) leverage the resulting reporting in support of future programming efforts.

All collected data will be provided to USAID via exportable ArcGIS compatible files. Data collection efforts are set to begin in Haiti this fall and conclude by the end of the year.



RDMS Version 4.0 Released

Rapid Data Management System (RDMS) Version 4.0 is now available. This new release includes a number of major functional improvements, including: (i) barcode scanning and enhanced picture mark-up functionality for RDMS Collect; (ii) a new RDMS Collect mapping application to provide on-line maps and images anywhere in the world; and (iii) Google Maps, Google Local Search and enhanced reporting functionality for RDMS Collaborate.

Unintended Outcomes...

In every issue of this newsletter we try to include an "unintended outcome" of RDMS. And there are many positive ones. This fall, it's the Maine Forest Rangers who, in addition to their daily and emergency management responsibilities, are now using RDMS to improve the quality of information available to Maine residents and tourists during the fall foliage season.



All 57 Maine Rangers carry RDMS PDAs, and can now provide vastly improved, and standardized, foliage assessments which include color pictures from across the state. The Maine Office of Tourism estimates that 25-30% of visitors come to Maine in the autumn months to experience crisp weather and "leaf peeping." To see the results of Rangers' RDMS use, visit www.maine foliage.com.