

Peter Fitzgibbon, Editor

Playing tag



In an attempt to contain the growing prison population, the government has announced the national roll-out of a pilot scheme to equip offenders with new GPS tags.¹

Unlike the ankle bracelets currently worn by 60,000 offenders to enforce home curfews, the new devices will track an individual's movements 24/7 to detect whether they are entering no-go zones, attending rehabilitation programmes, or nearing addresses to which they are barred.

"GPS tagging will help to better protect victims and give them the reassurance that perpetrators will not be able to breach an exclusion zone without triggering an immediate alert," says Justice Secretary

David Gauke, who adds, "I am confident that this important new technology will become a vital tool to increase public protection and strengthen options for tougher community sentences."

Before we get too excited, let's remind ourselves of a few salient facts. For a start, the roll-out will be limited to a maximum of 1,000 tags in use at any one time at a daily cost of £9 per tag. Not much of a payback on a scheme that was supposed to have been in use six years ago, has already cost £60 million, and is projected to swallow up £470 million by 2025.

And surprise, surprise, among the suppliers of the technology and associated monitoring service we find Capita (a serial bungler of high

profile outsourcing contracts), and G4S (which supplies the current generation of electronic tags and which, in 2017, was found to be charging for criminals who had either died, never been fitted with tags or were still in jail).

Little wonder that, following a damning National Audit Office review of the new GPS tagging project in 2017, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Sir Ed Davey ventured that the system had been a "disgraceful waste of public money."

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/justice-secretary-unveils-gps-tag-rollout-to-better-protect-victims>

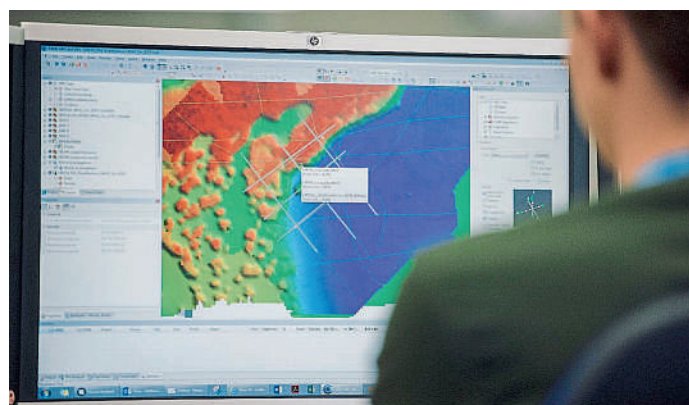
NEWS EXTRA

Cadcorp SIS 9 update: Workload Modeller and Risk Modeller

Cadcorp's resource planning and performance reporting tool for fire and rescue services, **Workload Modeller**, has been upgraded to run with **Cadcorp SIS 9**. Changes include support for Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) for no-loss resolution of icons, a 'launch button' which allows the user to change where the config files are read from and prescribed callout sets has a new option of 'assigning appliances at Incident Start time'. A new dialog has also been added in resource set creation. This helps make creating resource sets less time-consuming for the user. **Cadcorp Risk Modeller**, an add-in which allows users to test the impact of various risk factors combined with routing analysis, has also been upgraded to run with Cadcorp SIS 9. <http://cdcp.io/sisgwlm>

thinkWhere Helps Falkirk Tackle Poverty with Open Geographic Data

thinkWhere is working with **Falkirk Council** to develop a new mapping tool that aims to help improve the lives of its citizens. The development is being funded by the Open Data Institute, and will be led by the goals of the Council's poverty strategy known as "Fairer Falkirk". Fairer Falkirk aims to reduce poverty and the impact of poverty, ensure inequalities between the wealthiest and the poorest are reduced and provide a better life and equity of opportunity. Working in partnership, Falkirk Council and thinkWhere will initially address two themes "Digital Access" and "Food Provision". These will target an estimated cost of deprivation of 1,200 GBP a year per person and help reduce the impact of food poverty. www.thinkwhere.com



UKHO welcomes Department for Transport's Maritime 2050 strategy

The **UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO)** has welcomed the publication of the UK Government's 'Maritime 2050' strategy paper, which sets out the vision for the future of the UK maritime sector. The strategy, which has been developed in consultation with agencies including the UKHO and the wider public and private sectors, sets out a series of detailed recommendations to help the UK maintain its position as a leading global maritime nation. These recommendations span themes including the environment, international trade, security and resilience, infrastructure, people and technology. A focus on the positive impact that smart shipping and use of autonomous vessels could have on the environment, as well as safety and efficiency across the maritime industry, forms a key part of the paper. www.ukho.gov.uk

Students and Researchers now benefit from access to OceanWise

OceanWise' intelligent marine mapping data is now accessible to students in Further and Higher Education across the British Isles via **Digimap™** the online map and data delivery service provided by EDINA, based at the University of Edinburgh. EDINA works with data partners such as Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Getmapping plc. and OceanWise, to offer access to a variety of data collections for the purpose and benefit of education and research. Digimap™, one of their many innovative online tools, allows students and researchers to create or interrogate mapping online by selecting an appropriate base map, adding annotations and customising the content, using measurement and query tools to learn more about any study area. www.oceanwise.eu