

Customer Case Study: Elpho

Accurate land management is a complex undertaking. In the agricultural sector in particular, tracking the award of Government and EU grants to specific farms can be a significant administrative task...

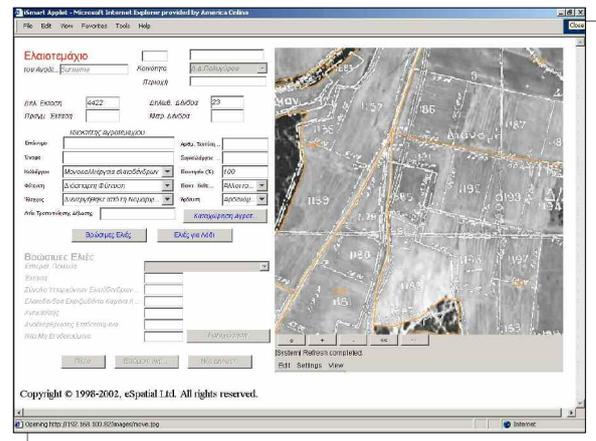
Unsurprisingly, Governments are seeking to automate this process. As they do so, the opportunity to completely remodel the way in which land use is managed and tracked presents itself – an opportunity that Elpho is currently working with eSpatial to explore.

The Problem:

Previously, subsidies for two main crops in the country, olives and vines, were allocated in response to data collected by farmers in inefficient paper-based systems. This process made the checking of claims against actual spatial data (i.e. the land itself) a lengthy and often inaccurate procedure. As a consequence, ensuring payments were correct involved a significant investment of time and money – both in terms of administrative costs and overpayments.

The Solution:

The Ministry of Agriculture has sub-contracted the collection of initial data. Elpho oversees the gathering of data for most of northern Greece. This task involves recording producer information, digitising olive and vine land parcels and collecting large amounts of data about individual parcels.



Elpho has moved away from ineffective paper based systems, which, as farmers are not present when information is entered into the system, can cause initial errors to go undetected.



From the beginning, Elpho chose to use eSpatial's iSMART product suite to deliver a system that would



support the unified collection of spatial and business data, and potentially provide the basis for a national, central system to manage olive and vine parcels for the entire country.

The system runs on Oracle 9i with 9iAS, and can be accessed via any standard web browser enabling the possibility to be accessed directly by the Greek farming community. By building on a standards-based, open infrastructure, the system will be able to evolve to cover new areas, and new functionality will be added as needed.

Key Benefits

- ***Data can be collected and entered into the system locally, enabling inspectors and farmers to agree field boundaries in situ and thus avoiding conflict concerning accuracy of subsidy levels.***
 - ***Parcels can be quickly and easily located using a variety of search criteria – a significant advantage considering small sized parcels and their loosely defined boundaries.***
 - ***The system supports the digitising of individual trees, maximising accuracy of subsidy payments.***
 - ***Online topology building enables immediate calculation of parcel area and number of trees within parcels – all done in the presence of the producer.***
 - ***Claims can be automatically validated against stored spatial data to ensure accuracy.***
- ***Parcel and farmer information can be updated in the spatial environment and changes will be reflected in attribute data.***
 - ***Printing of grant application forms based on data taken directly from Oracle.***
 - ***Printing of orthographically rectified projections of parcels and farms will be available direct from the database.***
 - ***Full support for the Greek language and alphabet is included in the finished application.***

About eSpatial

eSpatial, founded in Dublin, Ireland and with offices in the USA, is a world leader in enterprise strength spatial information management technology. Its advanced spatial environment, iSMART, in conjunction with Oracle Spatial, provides a platform for highly scalable and secure spatially enabled applications in a standard enterprise IT environment with unprecedented ease of use, manageability and support for OGC Web Services. Its standards based Rapid Application Development environment and GeoPortal allows organizations to quickly and easily build new applications (or extend existing ones) to include spatial functionality. These applications provide spatial intelligence to anyone, anywhere, on any device, connected or disconnected. eSpatial's technology is used in every area of IT including Public Sector, Defense, Telecommunications and Utility organizations.

