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Dr. Chuang Vincent Tao is currently Director of [Local Search and Virtual Earth](#) Business Unit at Microsoft Corporation. He is on leave from York University, Toronto, where he holds the Canada Research Chair Professor. He is Founder of York Geospatial Information and Communication Technology ([GeoICT](#)) Research Lab, one of the largest research settings in North America. He is Founder and President of [GeoTango International Corp.](#), acquired by Microsoft in 2005.

Respected by his peers, Dr. Tao is an internationally renowned pioneer and innovator in multi-platform 3D mapping and Internet spatial visualization. He has published over 200 influential technical papers, and served as Editorial Board for five international journals. Dr. Tao has been honored with 26 awards and distinctions for his achievements including the ASPRS Talbert Abrams Award, ISPRS Best Young Author Prize, the Lockheed Martin Award, Alberta Young Innovator Award, and the SPIE NIKON International award. Geo-Informatics magazine (Vol. 14-5, May, 2002) called his work “the most innovative in geospatial mapping”.

Dr Tao’s work has significant impacts to many fronts of spatial technologies. In 1995, as a core researcher, he was involved in the development of VISAT, one of the world’s first mobile mapping systems and authored a full package on automated street image processing. His theory on “Shape from image sequences” made him the winner of Lockheed Martin Image Processing Award, and the prestigious ISPRS Best Young Author Award. In 1997, as a principal engineer at the Alberta Research Council, he contributed the development of the first airborne laser/image integrated mapping system. Both of these technologies were successfully commercialized. In 1998, after returning to the academic, he pioneered the research of distributed GIServices, 3D geocomputation and Sensor Web. He led his research team develop numerous innovative systems and sophisticated algorithms, GeoServNet, GeoSWIFT, GeoEye, GeoATOMS, AutoMap etc. Many of these have already been used by or licensed to the private industry and government agencies. In 2002, he was awarded Canada Research Chair professor and was nominated as ‘Top 40 Under 40’ Canadian award.

Dr. Tao founded [GeoTango](#) in 2003 to commercialize his vision – 3D Spatial Web. Under his leadership, GeoTango released three unique software products, [GlobeView](#)[™], [SilverEye](#)[™] and [SmartDigitizer](#)[™]. Moreover, GeoTango has quickly built up its strong customer base and outstanding business reputation in the geospatial mapping sector. The company’s clients include organizations in defense, intelligence, emergency response, telecommunications, municipalities, health, media, utilities and energy, and the United Nations. Dr. Tao was chosen, as one of Canada’s top innovators, to present GeoTango’s latest developments to Canada’s Members of Parliament in The House of Commons in November of 2004.

GlobeView technology has been featured on CNN, CBC, CTV, the Discovery Channel and the Globe and Mail, etc media. It is essentially a web-based 3D digital earth platform, where multiple

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platform mapping sources including satellite, aerial and ground images can be geo-referenced using a universal sensor model, and visualized and streamed over the Internet. GlobeView technology becomes a norm now as you all are familiar with Microsoft Virtual Earth, Google Earth, NASA Worldview etc.

Dr. Tao is recognized technology authority, and visionary in the geospatial community. Dr Tao has been the Canada-appointed U.N. technology advisor for critical projects in nuclear inspection, and security surveillance. He is also a U.N appointed international expert in 3D urban mapping. He is Chair of ASPRS Digital Photogrammetry committee (American Society for Geospatial Information and Imaging), Chair of ISPRS Working Group on Multi-Platform Sensing and Sensor Networks (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing), Board Director of Urban Regional Information Systems Association Ontario, Board member of the Canadian Certification Program for remote sensing/mapping scientists, Board Director of U.S. Remote Sensing Curriculum, and Past President of the International Association of Chinese Professionals in GIS. Dr Tao is also on the Board of Directors of several private companies.