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Dr. Manfred Ehlers is Professor for GIS and Remote Sensing at the University of Osnabrueck, Germany. He is the Director of the University's Institute for Geoinformatics and Remote Sensing. He was recently elected as the first President of the newly founded 'Society for Geoinformatics' (a scientific society in Germany, Austria and Switzerland). He is also the Chairman of 'The Center of Excellence in Geoinformatics in North Germany - GiN', a public-private partnership for the advancement of Geoinformatics in North Germany. He holds a Master degree in Mathematics and a Ph.D. and Habilitation degree (*venia legendi*) in Surveying Engineering with emphasis on remote sensing, digital image processing and GIS.

Dr. Ehlers teaches courses in geoinformatics, GIS, remote sensing, digital image processing, environmental monitoring and environmental information systems. He has held academic appointments at various universities and research institutions in Germany, the United States, and the Netherlands. His research interest focuses on the concepts for integrated geographic analysis and modeling techniques, especially the integration of GIS and remote sensing. Other research areas include geoinformatics concepts, data fusion techniques, and advanced techniques for image analysis.

Dr. Ehlers was the chairman of several international working groups on GIS and remote sensing for the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. He has organized and chaired a number of national and international conferences and workshops including the SPIE (International Society for Optical Engineering) Conferences "Remote Sensing for Environmental Monitoring, GIS Applications and Geology", in Toulouse, France (2001), Aghia Pelagia, Crete, Greece (2002), Barcelona, Spain (2003), Maspalomas, Spain (2004), Bruges, Belgium (2005), Stockholm, Sweden (2006) and Florence, Italy (2007); "Geoinformatics North (2007)" in Hannover, Germany; the "3 European Research Network for the Application of Geomorphology and Environmental Impact Assessment to Transportation Systems (GETS) European Union (EU) Workshop" in Vechta, Germany (1999); the ISPRS Workshops on "New Developments in GIS", Milan, Italy (1996); "Requirements for Integrated Geographic Information Systems", New Orleans, LA (1994); and "3D in Remote Sensing and GIS: Systems and Applications", Munich, Germany (1991).

Over the last ten years, he has been PI or Co-PI on more than 50 funded research grants totaling over 7.5 Mio. Euro. Funding agencies included the following institutions: U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF); European Union; German Research Foundation (DFG); German Ministry for Science and Technology (BMBF); German Ministry for Economy and Technology (BMWt); German Ministry of the Interior (BMI); NASA; German Agency for Space Applications (DARA); Ministry of Environment, Lower Saxony; Ministry of Science, Lower Saxony, German Environmental Foundation (DBU); Federal Commission for Education and Research (BLK); University of California at Santa Barbara, USA; International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC), The Netherlands; and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

He has also been responsible for a number of consulting projects for public and private institutions, including BellSouth Systems, Atlanta, USA; Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS), Ottawa, Canada; ERDAS, Inc., Atlanta, USA; German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ); United Nations Development Program (UNDP); United Nations Environment Program (UNEP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); and the West Indies Development Bank.

He has published more than 270 papers on GIS, mapping, digital image processing, remote sensing, Geoinformatics, digital photogrammetry, and environmental monitoring. He has given over 290 presentations at scientific and professional meetings and conferences including Keynote Addresses at the '6th International Conference on Systems Research, Informatics and Cybernetics' in Baden-Baden (Germany), the 'International Association of Pattern Recognition' (IAPR) Technical Committee 7 (TC7) Workshop in Delft (The Netherlands), the 'Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences Symposium' on 'GIS and Remote Sensing for Environmental Analysis' in Zürich, the 'GEOINFO 2000 Conference' in Santiago de Chile, at the AGIT 2001 Symposium in Salzburg, Austria, the 2003 SPIE Conference on 'Remote Sensing for Environmental Monitoring, GIS Applications and Geology' in Barcelona (Spain), the 'Asia GIS 2003 Conference' in Wuhan (China) as well as numerous Invited Papers at various Geoinformatics, mapping and GIS, remote sensing and photogrammetry conferences.

His Institute IGF has been involved in a large number of projects in GIS and remote sensing for which it maintains excellent Geoinformatics research and teaching labs. The labs consists of about 30 networked workstations running current versions of proprietary Geoinformatics software packages such as ESRI's ArcGIS, Smallworld, Intergraph's Geomedia, ERDAS Imagine, ER Mapper, ENVI and eCognition as well as OpenSource systems such as GRASS or the UMN Mapserver. Mathematical and Statistical packages include Matlab, SPSS and Mathematica. The Center of Excellence – GiN is one of the leading Geoinformatics consortium in Northern Germany and is the official science partner for the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure program in the state of Lower Saxony.