

## Open Data Areas Alberta Initiative: Leveraging Open Data Sets for Informed Decision Making

**Alberta Data Partnerships Ltd. announces the successful projects in the second round of Open Data Areas Alberta (ODAA) pre-commercialization funding.**

October 1, 2018

Alberta Data Partnerships (ADP), in collaboration with Alberta Economic Development and Trade, has created the Open Data Area Alberta (ODAA) initiative to support Alberta small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in leveraging open data sets in the pre-commercial development of technology-based tools with industrial applications. The initiative provides grant funding in addition to no-cost access to commercial and government data.

The ODAA Steering Committee was formed in early 2016 to oversee the Request For Proposals (RFP) process. Contributors include representatives from:



### April 2018 RFP Results:

Under the second RFP call, which closed June 30, 2018, two Alberta-based SMEs have been selected by the ODAA Steering Committee to receive ODAA grant funding. The successful companies have identified real business issues and will develop tools that address these.



**Geomatics Data Management Inc. (GDM)** is a Calgary-based company that focuses on delivering information related to Canadian pipeline networks.

**ODAA Project:** The Industry Pipeline Risk Benchmark & Analysis project is to provide pipeline operators and industry stakeholders with a standard benchmark to continuously evaluate the risk profile of the entire Alberta pipeline network.

Currently, there are roughly 476,000 kilometers of pipelines in Alberta, operated by over 1,000 organizations and the regulation of these pipelines is a shared responsibility between various primary regulators and legislation. The objective of GDM's project is to improve industry's performance by evaluating all pipelines in Alberta to a standard set of industry best practices and regulatory guidelines. In partnership with Explore Integrity, GDM Pipelines is working to make critical information readily available to enable organizations to make decisions that reduce or eliminate unwanted consequences by changing their likelihood, their adverse impact, or both.

**"The Open Data Areas funding will allow us to accelerate the commercialization of an on-demand risk profile for every pipeline in Alberta, which will help industry proactively identify, and mitigate the risks that pipelines pose to our communities and environment."**



**Solstice Canada** is an Edmonton-based consulting firm that provides services in remediation, GIS, land use planning & policy, reclamation and environmental assessment.

**ODAA Project: Environmental Sensitivities Tool for Renewable Energy Development** will be an online, open source resource that lets users view an environmental sensitivity score for a land parcel.

The proposed tool will be an online, open source resource that lets users view a sensitivity score for a land parcel and the specific sensitivities that influenced that score (wetlands, sensitive species' habitat, etc.) as related to environmental sensitivities of potential renewable energy development sites. The tool also includes mapped wetland data at a scale small enough for detailed planning for a pilot area. Similar data will be available for purchase for areas beyond the pilot footprint, based on site-specific analysis.

**“This grant will allow Solstice Canada to create an innovative decision support tool that will help the renewable energy industry to identify environmentally appropriate project sites early in preliminary design, facilitating smoother regulatory and public review of proposed projects.”**

This is the second round of funding provided through the ODAA program. Previous Alberta SMEs who have received funding are:



**GeoAnalytic Inc.** is a Calgary-based consulting group specializing in spatial data science.

**ODAA Project:** development of a social media hub that incorporates geospatial data from Open Data Alberta with GPS tracks, photos, videos and other user supplied data.



**Waterline Resources Inc.** is an environmental and hydrogeology consulting company headquartered in Calgary.

**ODAA Project:** development of a Water Budget Tool.



**SensorUp Inc.** is a Calgary-based start-up that provides data exchange platforms for disparate, geospatial data, based on international, open, geospatial standards.

**ODAA Project:** development of an environmental data exchange node, which will combine centralized, current, disparate data.

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ADP thanks all companies for their proposals and encourages Alberta's innovative, entrepreneurial communities to visit [www.opendataareas.ca](http://www.opendataareas.ca) for more details on the program and to access the no-cost data.



**Alberta Data Partnerships Ltd.** is a successful Alberta public-private partnerships and provides leadership and governance to the licensing and distribution of spatial data. ADP is committed to initiatives that promote quality, accessibility and financial sustainability of data in Alberta.



**Alberta Economic Development and Trade** is responsible for building a resilient, robust and dynamic Alberta economy through supporting businesses and private sector job creation, enhancing access to capital for small and medium-sized enterprises, and coordinating and leveraging research and innovation to increase the commercialization of Alberta ideas and meet the needs of Albertans.

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