

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

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

September 1, 2017

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 the pre-commercial development of technology-based tools that leverage open data sets to meet the needs of industry and/or government. The initiative provides grant funding and 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:



February 2017 RFP Results:

Under the first RFP call, which closed February 28, 2017, three Alberta-based SMEs have been selected by the ODAA Steering Committee to receive \$40,000 in pre-commercialization funding toward their projects. The successful companies have identified real business issues and will develop prototype tools that address these. These are:



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

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.

Benefits to government and industry will be realized through the application of machine learning techniques to integrate remote sensing data with field observations and improve environmental management processes. The product will leverage environmental and geospatial data to provide a point of collaboration between back country stakeholders and address issues related to access, environmental protection, and safety. The goal of the project is to support good decision making through the use and propagation of quality data.

“Funding will allow us to provide Albertans and visitors to the province with information vital to outdoor adventure activities in order to ensure safe, sustainable and enjoyable back-country experiences.”



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

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

The system will include a mechanism through which the database will update automatically, in real-time as industry submits data to regulatory processes. Combining data will make statistics easier to find and analyze, as well as reuse and repurpose. Ultimately, the project offers industry and the province considerable value in social, economic, and environmental domains.

“Grant funding will support SensorUp in deepening Alberta’s tech capacity and economy, allowing the province to build on in-house expertise to create a thriving tech industry”



Waterline Resources Inc. is an environmental and hydrogeology consulting company headquartered in Calgary that has proposed to develop a Water

ODAA Project: development of a Water Budget Tool.

The geodatabase integrated with this tool will be a repository for groundwater level and associated data collected in the field. Use of the tool to upload vetted compliance data into the Water Use Reporting System (WURS) will enable efficient management of the WURS system by the Alberta government, as well as promote water resource management.

“The tool will provide users with an improved understanding of the sustainability of authorized versus actual water use in Alberta”

ADP thanks all companies for their proposals and encourages Alberta’s entrepreneurial and innovation communities to visit www.opendataareas.ca for more details on the program and to access the no-cost data. The second RFP intake will open in June with a deadline of Fall 2017.



Alberta Data Partnerships Ltd. is one of Alberta’s most successful 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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