



Autodesk Improves Homeland Security Efforts for City of West Palm Beach

June 9, 2003

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 9, 2003--

Autodesk MapGuide Software Simplifies Access to High-Quality
GIS Information and Helps City Departments Improve Efficiency

Autodesk, Inc. (Nasdaq:ADSK), the world's leading design software and digital content company, today announced that the City of West Palm Beach, Florida, has selected Autodesk MapGuide(R) software to manage and distribute GIS information to all city employees and the general public. The city is using Autodesk MapGuide software to improve the sharing of homeland security and emergency information among city departments, and to power a GIS Web site (<http://www.wpbgis.com>) that allows visitors to select from more than 100 types of maps.

The City of West Palm Beach has 11 departments that must communicate and share a wide variety of information ranging from hazardous materials sites, to parcel owner records and infrastructure management. Because the city's GIS department has just one staff person, West Palm Beach required a mapping distribution solution that easily incorporates existing data without conversion, and is easy for non-technical users to understand and access.

"Using (Autodesk) MapGuide, I was able to make GIS information available citywide within 30 days of implementation -- about three months sooner than expected," said Nestor Navarro, GIS Coordinator for the City of West Palm Beach. "As the city's only GIS employee, I needed a solution that would not require a significant investment of my time. (The Autodesk) MapGuide authoring tools, and its ability to publish city maps on the Internet, allowed me to meet these challenges."

Autodesk MapGuide Software Helps Identify, Manage Emergency Sites

Prior to the Autodesk MapGuide implementation, West Palm Beach's departments typically shared GIS information using static paper maps, since data from one department's database usually didn't correspond with data from another department. Public access was limited and slow: Individuals had to request maps through the City Clerk's office, which then passed on the request to the GIS department. Owing to the time required for creating such maps, the public was charged a materials fee.

After the implementation, city departments not only began using GIS data for daily operations, such as emergency planning and permit issuance, they began providing the GIS department with richer information for the entire mapping system. When the GIS department first introduced online maps via its Web site, it offered 63 types; today, more than 100 types are available. The public can now access these maps via the city's GIS Web site, without making appointments with the city clerk or paying fees.

West Palm Beach police and fire departments also use online maps for homeland security initiatives, put into place after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. For instance, police and fire officials use mapping data to identify sites that might be terrorist targets, as well as those containing hazardous materials.

In addition, emergency officials in West Palm Beach use online maps to plot evacuation and debris removal routes in the case of natural disasters such as hurricanes. Autodesk MapGuide software is frequently used by state and local governments to manage GIS information for emergency situations. The Florida Emergency Operations Center, which oversees statewide disaster response activities, will be using Autodesk MapGuide in order to provide information to the public on hurricane preparedness and response.

"Autodesk MapGuide software's ability to bring together GIS information from diverse sources and diverse platforms makes it the logical choice for local governments needing fast and cost-effective GIS solutions," said Richard Neiman, founder of CADD Centers of Florida, the Autodesk reseller that supplied West Palm Beach with the Autodesk MapGuide application. "The short implementation time and easy-to-use browser interfaces in (Autodesk) MapGuide guarantee a fast return on investment in the solution."

About Autodesk

Founded in 1982, Autodesk, Inc., is the world's leading design software and digital content company. Autodesk offers solutions for professionals in building design, geographic information systems, manufacturing, digital media, and wireless data services. By delivering progressive products and services, Autodesk helps customers create, manage, use, and maximize the value of their digital data throughout the lifecycle of their projects. For more information about the company, see www.autodesk.com.

Autodesk and Autodesk MapGuide are registered trademarks of Autodesk, Inc., in the USA and/or other countries. All other brand names, product names, or trademarks belong to their respective holders.

Editor's Note: Jon Hanson, Oklahoma City assistant fire chief during the Murrah Federal Building bombing in 1995 and President Bush's top choice to lead the United States Fire Administration, will be available to comment about disaster preparedness at the Governor's Hurricane Conference in Tampa, Fla., on June 11, 2003. Please contact Liz Aune at 415/515-3739, to schedule a time.

CONTACT: Autodesk, Inc. Elizabeth Aune, 415/507-8195
elizabeth.aune@autodesk.com

SOURCE: Autodesk, Inc.