

Nova Scotia Power Team Wins International Award with GIS on BlackBerry



HALIFAX, July 17, 2009 /CNW/ - A team from Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) has been recognized for its innovative use of satellite mapping technology via smartphone at the First Annual BlackBerry Mobile GIS Awards. NSPI's GIS Connectivity Project team accepted the award during a video-conference Thursday with an international meeting of GIS (geographic information system) users.

"This is a real honour for our team," said project manager Brian Shannon. "We are humbled that what we thought of as a very practical work process has been recognized as an international leading innovation. Our focus was to improve our model of the electrical distribution system in order to help enhance service reliability for customers."

The other team members are GIS project lead Anthony Bell, IT architect Chris Cruickshank, and business system analyst Jamie Simpson. The NSPI team is using BlackBerry Storms and Freeance Mobile software in the field to collect technical data about individual components of the distribution system, such as transformers and disconnect switches, along with precise location information. The information is transferred from their Blackberries to Nova Scotia Power's GIS server, and technicians use it to update the electrical model.

The information is building a more accurate picture of NSPI's distribution system, which will help the utility better predict the impact of storms, dispatch line crews more effectively, and provide better information to customers and emergency officials during outages.

"Nova Scotia Power prides itself in its innovative workforce," said Rick Janega, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Nova Scotia Power. "The members of the GIS Connectivity Project team are a perfect example of the kind of employees serving our customers, finding a cost-effective and industry-leading way to help provide better service."

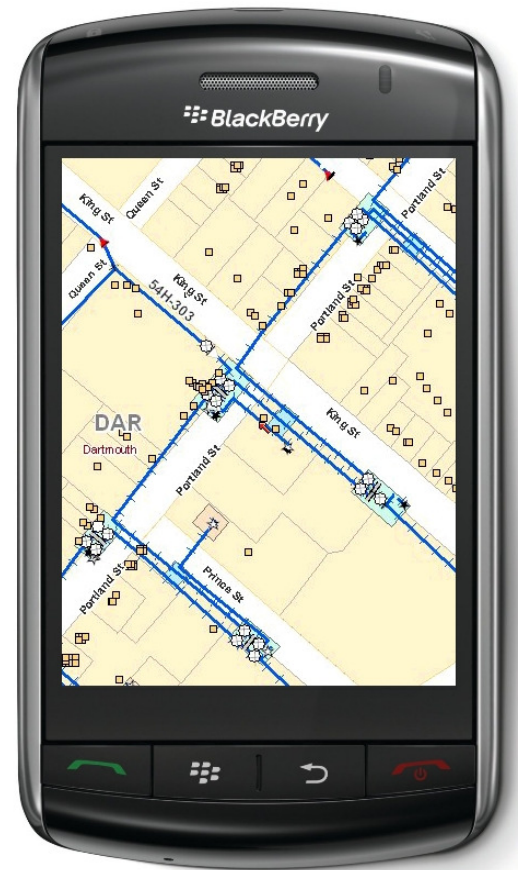
The GIS on BlackBerry Awards recognize achievements in four categories. The NSPI team won as best application for field services. The awards were presented in conjunction with the ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, CA, the world's largest gathering of GIS professionals.

About Nova Scotia Power

Nova Scotia Power Inc. is the largest wholly-owned subsidiary of Emera Inc. (TSX-EMA), a diversified energy and services company. Nova Scotia Power provides more than 95% of the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical power to 482,000 customers in the province. The company is focused on new technologies to enhance customer service and reliability, reduce emissions and add renewable energy. Nova Scotia Power has 1,700 employees and \$3.5 billion in assets, including 5,000 km of transmission lines and 25,000 km of distribution lines.

About Freeance Mobile Software

Freeance Mobile is innovative, easy-to-use location software for efficiently making mobile applications. You can now make your ArcGIS available to anyone, anywhere, anytime. It is hassle-free software for users and IT administrators alike. Designed for the ESRI and BlackBerry environments, Freeance Mobile starting at \$999 for unlimited users and combining off-the-shelf simplicity with the ability to make your own custom applications. Visit www.Freeance.com/mobile for more information.



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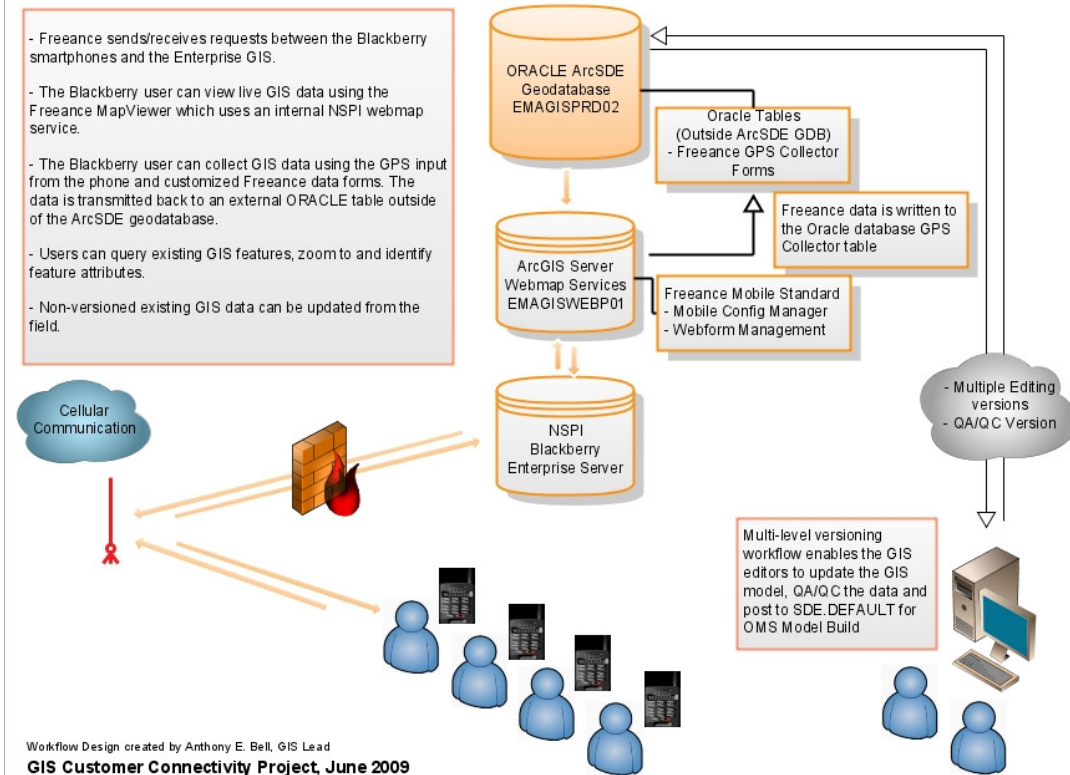


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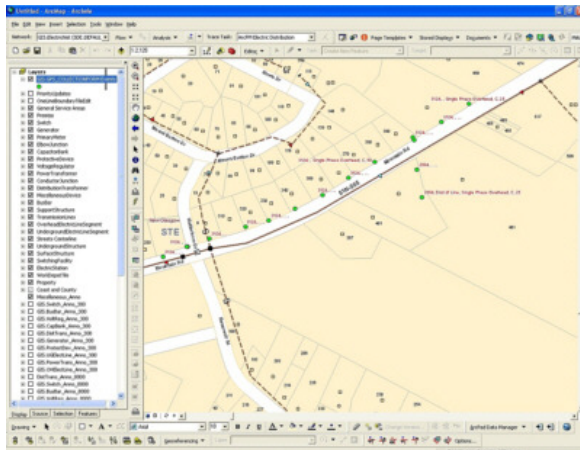


Freeance in the Enterprise GIS

- Freeance sends/receives requests between the Blackberry smartphones and the Enterprise GIS.
- The Blackberry user can view live GIS data using the Freeance MapViewer which uses an internal NSPI webmap service.
- The Blackberry user can collect GIS data using the GPS input from the phone and customized Freeance data forms. The data is transmitted back to an external ORACLE table outside of the ArcSDE geodatabase.
- Users can query existing GIS features, zoom to and identify feature attributes.
- Non-versioned existing GIS data can be updated from the field.



Workflow Design created by Anthony E. Bell, GIS Lead
GIS Customer Connectivity Project, June 2009



About TDC Group

TDC Group, Inc. develops the Freeance Mobile and Freeance Web software solutions. The Company serves government, utilities and corporate clients with productive, cost-effective and easy-to-use software that reduces the time and resources needed to deploy enterprise GIS and mobile applications. TDC Group is located in Dayton OH and was established in 1988.

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