



**Press Information**  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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**THE GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE TO HOST GIS DAY 2003  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON AND  
THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**

**“Federal Bureau of Investigations Special Agent-In-Charge Richard Garcia  
To Serve As Keynote Speaker”**

(Houston, Texas) ---- Starting on Thursday, November 20th and running through Friday, November 21st, the Houston-Galveston Area Council’s (H-GAC) Geographic Data Committee (GDC) working in conjunction with the University of Houston will host the greater Houston region’s two-day GIS Day 2003 celebration at the University of Houston -- Downtown campus located at One Main Street in Houston, Texas starting at 9:00 a.m.

GIS Day 2003 is an international event that celebrates the innovative ways in which Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are used to provide increased efficiency and the delivery of critical services by government agencies and private corporations.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) links information stored in the course of normal operations and business activities with map features to provide unparalleled tracking and analysis capabilities, thus allowing for the visualization of previously unseen relationships and geographic dependencies. It is employed to solve problems in many areas such as homeland security, emergency response, environmental protection, health care, public works, zoning and land use, business site selection, and many other areas.

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A major feature of GIS Day 2003 will be the Keynote Address by Richard Garcia, Federal Bureau of Investigations – Houston Division Special Agent-In-Charge on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:15a.m. Special Agent-In-Charge Richard Garcia will be discussing how GIS technology is employed by the FBI to assist with law enforcement efforts and homeland security initiatives.

GIS Day 2003 will also showcase real-time demonstrations of GIS applications and other related technologies such as GPS (Global Positioning Systems) field data collection. Other demonstrations include the City of Houston's Planning and Development Department demonstration of mobile/hand-help GIS systems used by neighborhood protection; The City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department demonstrations of Internet mapping (GIMS) used for locating water and sewer pipes and its innovative internet-based Street Cut Permit System; H-GAC's multi-county Star\*Map that provides a common map for the region's 13 counties; and METRO's use of GIS in creating route maps for bus and MetroLift services.

According to Max Samfield, Data Services Manager for H-GAC, "It is my hope that through events like GIS Day 2003, we can continue to build the same kind of broad based knowledge, professional fellowship and comradery that has so capably fueled new accomplishments on behalf of citizens across the region. Surprisingly, most people are unaware they are benefiting from the use of GIS when they access a bank's automated teller machine, view maps and secure driving directions on the Internet (MapQuest.com), receive an overnight delivery (FedEx), rent DVD's (Blockbuster), access On\*Star in their vehicle (General Motors), and even stop for fast food (Taco Bell)."

For more information about GIS Day 2003 or a schedule of event, please see the attachment below or contact Nancy Fischer at 713.525.9863 or email her at [nancy.fischer@cityofhouston.net](mailto:nancy.fischer@cityofhouston.net). You may also view our website located at <http://www.eng.hctx.net/gisexpo/gisday2003.htm>.

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## **GIS DAY 2003 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

### **Thursday, November 20, 2003**

- **9:00a.m.**  
Overview presentations for government officials and other interested parties describing how GIS data is shared and used by regional agencies under the auspices of the Houston-Galveston Area Council providing strategic, financial and information benefits for the area. ([www.h-gac.com](http://www.h-gac.com))
- **9:15a.m.**  
GIS Day 2003 Keynote Address by Richard Garcia, FBI Special Agent in Charge - Houston Division who will speak on homeland security initiatives and the uses of GIS by law enforcement agencies in the Houston area
- **10:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.**  
GIS Technical Presentations given every 30 minutes from several respected government and private GIS professionals
- **9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.**  
Exhibitor Area with over 35 government agencies and private firms participating

### **Friday, November 21, 2003**

#### **9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.**

GIS Day 2003 Expo with over 400 students selected from area high schools that will attend informative GIS presentations, participate in geography games, visit with GIS exhibitors, try their hand with GPS, and participate in the GIS Internet lab. A GIS essay contest will be conducted with winning essays receiving gift certificates from area retailers. The school with the overall best GIS essay will receive free GIS software from ESRI valued at more than \$2000.

For more information on GIS Day 2003, please contact Nancy Fischer at 713.525.9863 or email her at [nancy.fischer@cityofhouston.net](mailto:nancy.fischer@cityofhouston.net). You may also view our website located at <http://www.eng.hctx.net/gisexpo/gisday2003.htm>.