

OPENING AND CLOSING PLENARY

Ed Parsons, chief of geospatial technology at Google and ex CTO of the UK Ordnance Survey will be keynote speaker at the opening plenary. The closing plenary will consist of a debate about the software options for developing nations with a panel of international experts.

Lighting Talks form an integral part of the plenaries. These talks will be presented by diverse speakers such as Steven Ottens, Frank Warmerdam, Dr Manie Brynard, Suha Ulgen, Dr. Horst Düster and Paul Scott. The speakers will cover a range of topics from OSGeo4W; serving global geological data using Mapserver; Geospatial at the UN; Building a FOSS geospatial solution for a Swiss state, and Chisimba and Ubuntu GIS.

The **Sol Katz Award** for Geospatial Free and Open Source Software (GFOSS) is awarded annually by OSGeo to individuals who have demonstrated leadership in the GFOSS community. Recipients of the award have contributed significantly through their activities to advance open source ideals in the geospatial realm. The award acknowledges both the work of community members, and pays tribute to one of its founders, for years to come. The Sol Katz Award will be presented during the Closing Plenary Session on Thursday, October 2nd.

Sol Katz was an early pioneer of GFOSS and left behind a large body of work in the form of applications, format specifications, and utilities while at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Sol died in 1999 from Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, but his legacy lives on in the open source world.