

## Preface to the VGI Special Issue

The Austrian Geodetic Commission (ÖGK) is the national organisation in Austria related to the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) which is one of the eight associations of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG).

Every four years IUGG and its associations hold a General Assembly. The IAG uses these general assemblies to present the work performed, to review the structure of IAG, to appoint new officers and to organise a suite of symposia. The XXV General Assembly of IUGG will take place in Melbourne, Australia, June 27 to July 08, 2011 and the ÖGK has decided to contribute with a collection of research papers of Austrian institutions related to geodesy.

The main task of this special issue of the *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Vermessung & Geoinformation (VGI)* is to give the international geodetic research community an idea about the various topics Austrian geodesists are working on. Additionally, this scientific work should be cumulatively shown to those Austrian colleagues who are mainly involved in practical and administrative work. The variety of research topics indicates how closely geodesy is related to its neighbouring disciplines such as geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, space science, and computer science. Joint efforts in different fields are needed to achieve the goals which are common in modern society, such as precise navigation on Earth or a thorough description of the various interactions in 'System Earth' providing important input parameters for research on natural hazards and global change.

With in total 17 papers the present issue can be considered more than a "snapshot" of the geodetic research work carried out in Austria. The authors of this special issue of the VGI represent Vienna University of Technology and Graz University of Technology, both offering the full educational programme in geodesy, as well as the University of Innsbruck, the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV), the Space Research Institute (IWF) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and their research partners.

I'd like to express particular thanks to the four guest-editors of this issue: Johannes Böhm, Alexander Reiterer, Franz Rottensteiner, and Helmut Woschitz. All four of them were recipients of the Karl Rinner Prize, which is the highest award that the Austrian Geodetic Commission gives once a year to an outstanding young scientist in the field of geodesy.

It has to be mentioned that all papers of this issue had to undergo the peer-review process of the VGI to ensure that the quality of the published articles was the same as in a standard issue of the journal. Thus, I also want to thank all reviewers for their useful comments and constructive remarks. On behalf of all authors and the four guest-editors I would like to acknowledge the Austrian Society of Geodesy and Geoinformation (OVG) for providing this platform for the publications. In particular we are grateful to the editor-in-chief of the VGI, Stefan Klotz, and his two deputy editors, Ernst Zahn and Andreas Pammer, for taking care of the layout of the papers and solving all technical problems.



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(President of the Austrian Geodetic Commission)