

ON THE RADAR

News for Southern Mapping Company clients

**SOUTHERN MAPPING
COMPANY**
360° all the time

Back to helicopters



The new prototype housing that will fit most types of helicopters.

The personnel of Southern Mapping Company (SMC), who were among the world's first to commercialise airborne lidar (light detection and ranging) in the 1990's, used helicopters as airborne platforms for technology. Later, both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft were used, and most recently only fixed wing aircraft.

In fact, SMC's Chief Executive Peter Moir, who was also a commercial pilot at the time, conducted all the helicopter test flying in the 90's together with the

South African Civil Aviation authority to have the Lidar equipment and airborne cameras approved for flying on helicopters. SMC has now made the decision to reinstate the use of helicopters for certain applications such as linear surveys of roads, railways, pipelines and power lines. Fixed wing aircraft will still be used on mapping projects. The flexibility between the use of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, in line with the company's 'one-stop-shop' vision. A supplier of integrated mapping solutions.

Southern Mapping Company Conducts GIS Training Course for Northern Cape Department of Social Development

Southern Mapping Company recently concluded a GIS (Geographical Information System) training course for the Northern Cape Department of Social Development.

SMC were tasked with the geocoding of existing social services in the province, which included Centres for Crime Support, Disability, Early Childhood Development (ECD), HIV and youth development as well as food gardens, soup kitchens and all social service grant pay points. Gap analysis was conducted in terms of their effective penetration into communities who are most reliant on these services by incorporating census and other demographic data. The results were presented during a training course hosted at the Northern Cape Department of Social Development in Kimberley between 3 and 7 May 2010.



From left to right: Alex Fortescue (SMC) with Mzwandile Mgoma, Darryl Kock and Emile Adams of Northern Cape Social Development proudly holding their certificates.

This project represents the newly expanded offerings of SMC, which now include GIS data capture, analysis and training as well as satellite remote sensing and airborne hyperspectral applications. Moreover it highlights SMC's commitment to promoting development in South Africa.

Weather – all in a day's work

Southern Mapping Company (SMC) may be able to control aircraft to fly over marked areas for surveys, but if there is one thing we have no control over, it is the weather. Unfortunately this is the one thing that we wish we could control, as it affects our timing on projects. For two weeks during May, both our aircraft were grounded due to bad weather – one plane in Cape Town and the other in Mozambique. Added to this situation, new

security restrictions for survey flying came into effect on 25 May and will end mid July, due to the Soccer World Cup and these restrictions have added further pressure to our scheduling.



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