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WESTWOOD/ETG LAUNCHES NEW LIDAR PRODUCTION WORKFLOW

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[Westwood Professional Services, Inc.](http://www.westwoodps.com), a national land and energy development consultant, is excited to announce the integration of a GeoCue-managed LiDAR production workflow in their suite of mapping solutions provided by their Westwood/ETG division. One of several features of the GeoCue/TerraScan LiDAR workflow is simultaneous multi-user processing, which decreases production time for quick data turnaround.

Westwood/ETG provides aerial mapping and LiDAR solutions to support the development of electric transmission and power generation nationwide. The Westwood/ETG team began providing mapping services in 1988, utilizing their proprietary SADI (*Scale-Accurate-Digital-Imagery*) software. Since then, the group's aerial mapping and SADI solutions have been preferred by many prominent transmission and distribution engineers and utilities to provide data for new transmission line design and corridor analysis.

Westwood/ETG Director, Mike McCullough, sees the GeoCue/TerraScan LiDAR workflow as a complement to SADI, "Our clients come to us seeking viable and cost-effective solutions for their projects and we understand that a single mapping solution won't fit all project types. With our SADI and LiDAR production systems, we provide our clients a choice and help them select the best option for their projects."

McCullough emphasizes that aerial mapping and LiDAR are unique from each other in their capabilities and advantages. When faced with choosing a solution, each project should be individually assessed. In general, McCullough suggests, "When assessing corridor options to build a new line, aerial mapping allows the engineer greater flexibility for route changes because in most cases, up to a 2-mile-wide corridor of data can be gathered in one pass. With LiDAR, the route typically needs to be defined within 250' for a single-pass flight." The larger corridor width provided with aerial mapping allows engineers and designers to adjust transmission line route selections without the need for another flight to gather more data.

In support of LiDAR, he offers, "LiDAR-derived data is able to represent aerial obstructions in much more detail than aerial photography. The density of the data gathered using LiDAR makes it great for upgrading existing lines and supporting vegetation management. It allows us to gather and process extreme amounts of data in areas where significant detail is needed."

Another good example for LiDAR use is the October 7, 2010 alert issued by The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). The alert recommends transmission facility owners ensure their line ratings are based on actual field conditions. Westwood/ETG has been busy supporting

clients requiring existing line data. In this case, McCullough says, “With efficiencies achieved in acquisition and processing in the last few years, LiDAR is the preferred solution for NERC compliance.”

About Westwood:

[Westwood Professional Services, Inc.](#) (Westwood) is a multi-disciplinary consulting firm providing complete and sustainable solutions to Land and Energy development clients nationwide. The firm provides solutions to support the development of projects from concept to completion. Those services include land surveying, aerial mapping, LiDAR, GIS, civil engineering, renewable system design, siting and land rights, planning, environmental, cultural resources, landscape architecture, transportation engineering, visualization, construction management, and NPDES & SWPPP compliance. Westwood was established in 1972 and serves clients across the country from multiple U.S. offices.

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