



Esri Chief Scientist Dr Dawn Wright, DNRME Executive Director Steven Jacoby, SA Government Director of StateStat Gary Maguire, Geoscience Australia Chief Scientific Information Officer Tanya Whiteway, Department of Defence Director of Maritime Geospatial Intelligence Martin Rutherford, and Esri Australia Group Managing Director Brett Bundock (L-R).

National science pioneers recognised at new awards

Four industry leaders who have used cutting-edge technology to address some of humanity's biggest challenges have been recognised at the inaugural GIS Hall of Fame awards in Brisbane.

From providing critical data to aid frontline response to the devastating bushfires burning across Queensland in November 2019 to underpinning a global project to map the ocean's floor; the 2019 award winners have innovatively used

GIS technology to make a real difference to the community and grow Australia's multi-billion dollar geospatial industry.

Geoscience Australia and Queensland's Department of Natural Resources, Mining, and Energy (DNRME) were presented with GIS Pioneer Awards for their extraordinary leadership in both the application and advancement of the science of GIS.

Lifetime Achievement in GIS Awards were presented to Martin Rutherford,

the Department of Defence's director of Maritime Geospatial Intelligence, and Gary Maguire, director of StateStat at the South Australian Government, for their unparalleled commitment to industry innovation.

The official Awards Ceremony for the inaugural Australian GIS Hall of Fame was held on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

NASA survey of Antarctic ice launches from Hobart

NASA's Operation IceBridge mission has launched from Hobart, kicking off the Australian Antarctic Program's research season.

Operation IceBridge will combine survey data from aircraft, satellites and terrestrial teams to create the largest survey of the Earth's changing ice ever undertaken, according to the Australian Antarctic Division.

The primary vehicle for this phase of the research will be a Gulfstream V aircraft, packed with sensors and instrumentation including two laser altimeters accurate to under 5cm, optical cameras, a gravimeter and radar sounders.

Deputy project scientist for Operation IceBridge Dr Linette Boisvert said the aim of the research is to collect the data needed to improve projections of future sea level change caused by a changing climate and making more accurate forecasts of annual sea ice extent.

Australian Antarctic Division sea ice physicist Dr Petra Heil is coordinating a ground team, including two NASA



NASA's Gulfstream V at Hobart Airport for Operation IceBridge. Photo: Mark Horstman.

scientists, to be based at Casey research station, Australia's research base in the Antarctic that celebrated 50 years of operation this year.

The team will move along the same path as the aircraft and NASA's ICESat-2 satellite to ground-truth data collected from the air and space by collecting ice cores and measuring snow cover.

"With NASA's Operation IceBridge flying for more than a month and our ground team on the ice at the same time, in terms of fieldwork this is the biggest coup we've had in our research for a while," said Dr Heil.

Around 550 expeditioners will travel south as part of the broader Australian Antarctic Program in 2019/20, composed of Australian and international scientists.