

Geospatial Data Acquisition Principles

The members of the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) believe that government acquisition policies and practices related to geospatial data and services must be based on a set of core principles that will serve the procuring government body, partnering organizations, and society as a whole. These principles are based on transparency and openness, and they include:

- Competitiveness – the pool of potential qualified spatial data and service providers should be as large and as diverse as possible.
- Cost-effectiveness – Data and service provision proposals should be evaluated in such a way as to maximize the value proposition that the acquiring/procuring body defines. This might include, at minimum, such ideas as geographic coverage/extent, timeliness, documentation, and the ability to deliver.
- Accountability – The preferred quality of services and data, and the means for measuring that quality, must be specified in advance, and made available to the public. These metrics should be sound and repeatable.
- Policy-driven – All procurement activities should be based on standards that inform clear work specifications.
- Innovation – The acquisition of geospatial data and services should encourage new processes and methods, with an eye toward highest societal value as a consideration when evaluating work proposals. This might include research and training opportunities for the next-generation spatial technologies workforce.