LAND SURVEYOR’S SOCIETY of MALTA
Land Surveying in Malta – the past 60 years

- The Land Surveyors Society is a non Governmental organisation serving the public interest for advancement of the profession of surveying in all fields of its applications.

- Civilian Land Surveying, offered very limited scope of activity in Malta before the Second World War as we relied on personnel from the British War Departments for any surveying and mapping services.

- Malta gained Independence from Britain in 1964.

- The Government tackled the reconstruction of the Island where a marked increase of Land Surveying activities was registered.

- After Independence the Maltese government launched development plans which included plans for a thriving tourist resort and a promising industrial centre.
LSS (formerly the Land Surveyors Society of the Crown) was set up in 1969 by the 17 surveyors employed by the Public Service aiming to improve the technical and scientific knowledge of its members.

The elected members of the LSS were either qualified members by a public competitive examination or are members that have gained a standard of experience in Land Surveying to the satisfaction of the Society.

Examinations were held by the Board of Local Examinations of the Government of Malta which comprised papers in Theoretical and Practical Land Surveying and in General Education, concluding with an interview.
Late 1960’s - the only surveyors were those employed by the Public Service.

Late 1970’s - these surveyors, after being trained by the Italian Military Mission in Malta by the Istituto Geografico Militare of Firenze, Italy, took active part in the preparation of the map of the Maltese Islands at a scale of 1:25,000.

1988 - re-mapping in digital format of the Maltese Islands at the scale of 1:2500, was launched. This was the first step towards the establishment of a Mapping Unit.
Early 1990’s - about eighty per cent of the surveyors working in the Public Service together with the mapping function were transferred to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA). The MEPA together with Nottingham Trent University (UK) organised an in house course in Land Surveying at the University of Malta.

Early 1990, the first Private Land Surveying Company was set up. Later on two other Surveying Companies followed.

Private building contractors and developers started employing their own surveyors.

This change brought a major development in the survey profession as this instilled competition and as such advancement in the survey profession.
Land Surveying in Malta.......  Cont’d

- Up to mid-seventies triangulation network and mapping was carried out by the British

- Setting up of the Mapping Unit (MEPA) as the National mapping Agency – 1988

- The first GPS network of the Maltese islands – 1993

- EUREF campaign – 1996

- Levelling networks
  - 300 primary
  - 500 secondary
Survey operations

- Due to the lack of Surveyors’ law
  - Private Land Surveyors’ activities are not regulated by any code of practice.
  - Public Land Surveyors are only regulated by National Authorities/Departments’ service regulations and service charters.
Membership

- Malta has a population of 400,000

- The Land Surveyors’ Society of Malta has 49 registered members. Up until the present time the Society only accept persons who are qualified and practising as Land Surveyors.

- In due course there is a possibility of extending the membership to other related disciplines within the sphere of Geomatics.
Membership

- Statistics
  - Full Members: 25
  - Associate Members: 18
  - Probationers: 4
  - Students
  - Honorary Members: 2

- Gender
  - Males: 47
  - Females: 2
Membership

- Qualifications
  - Degree: 3
  - Diploma or other: 34
  - Public Service Examinations: 10
  - Honorary Members: 2

- Employment
  - Public Service (Government): 6
  - MEPA: 20
  - Parastatal Entities: 9
  - Private Sector: 12
  - Honorary Members: 2
Membership

Employment ratio

- Public Service (Government)
- MEPA
- Parastatal Entities
- Private Sector
- Honorary Members
Membership Type

- Full Member
- Associate Member
- Probationer
- Student
- Honorary Members
Academic Courses

- Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) in the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering - Certificates and Diplomas

- To date no courses leading to a degree in Surveying are being held at the University of Malta.
Recognition

- Up to 20 years ago the Architect & Civil Engineer (A&CE) was the only person recognised & allowed to sign for Electrical Engineers (EE), Mechanical Engineers (ME), Land Surveyors (LS) and Quantity Surveyors (QS).

- 20 years ago the E & M Engineers set up their own Chamber which was approved officially through Parliament.

- To date the A&CE is the only person to certify and sign any official document related to Land and Quantity Surveying.

- Although this anomaly still exists officially, a few Surveyors are now being recognised and appointed directly by the Courts of Law to be expert witness in cases related mostly to Land Boundaries.
International Membership

- The LSS of Malta is an active full member with the following International Organisations:
  
  - Founder Member of the Commonwealth Association of Surveyors’ and Land Economy (CASLE) Full Members since 1967;
  
  - International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Full Members since 1994;
  
  - European Group of Surveyors (EGOS) – Associate Members since 1999 and Full Members since 2004;
  
  - Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE) Full Members since 2004.
Liberalisation and globalisation

What will be the impact on our local scenario with the implementation of EU directives?

- Directive on the recognition of professional qualification
- Directive on Services in the internal market
Way forward

- Establish better links with MAGI and RICS Malta
- Continue to have talks with the Maltese Government regarding recognition and the setting up of a Chamber of Surveyors
- To liaise with the University of Malta to introduce a first degree course in Surveying
- Explore the possibility of establishing a link with a European University for long distance courses
THANK YOU

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President
Land Surveyors’ Society – Malta

CLGE General Assembly – Malta
September 2006