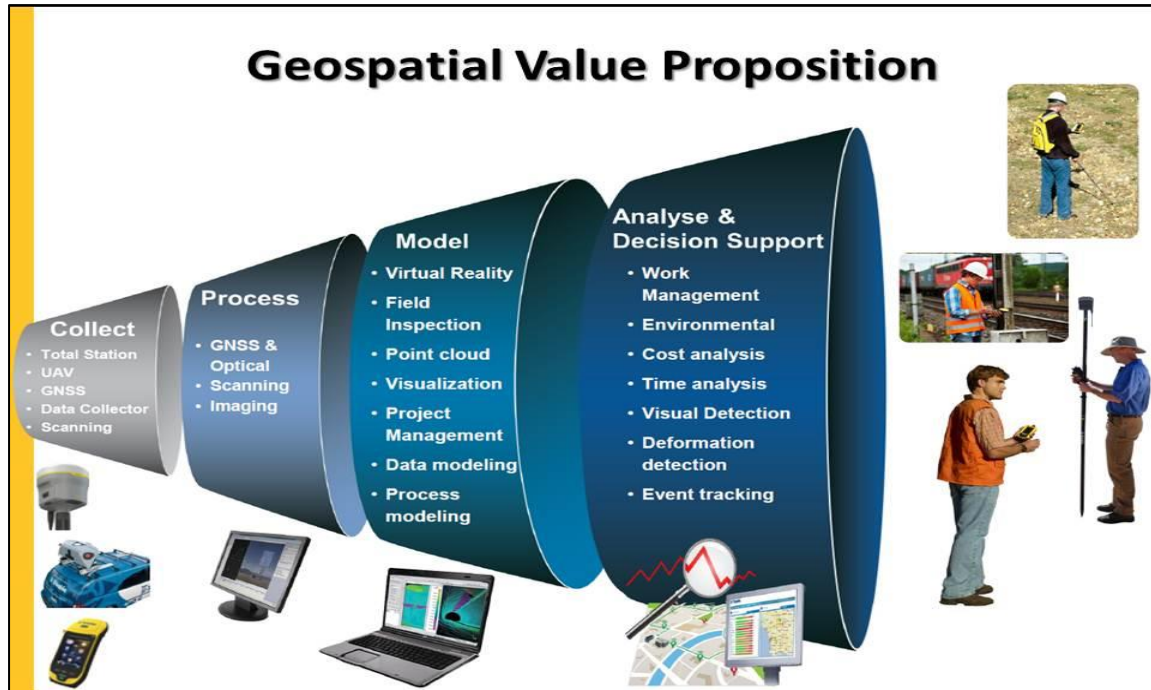


THE EVOLUTION OF GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY – FROM DATA TO KNOWLEDGE



We know that that land surveying technology has come a long way since the Egyptians used the plumb bob in the construction of their shrines and temples. What's impressive is how this technical evolution has accelerated over time. Compare the centuries required to migrate from measuring sticks and ropes to chains, then tapes, and then to the early electronic methods pioneered by Geodimeter. Then, in just a few decades, distance measuring tools evolved from the cabinet-sized devices of the 1940s to chips and lenses that integrate easily into a compact telescope or handheld device. GPS needed only 20 years to evolve from static-only receivers the size of a suitcase to easily portable units capable of real time, centimetre accuracy. Today, LiDAR, imaging techniques, unmanned aerial systems and computing technology are evolving at ever-faster rates.

A number of important technology-driven trends are likely to have a major impact on the Geospatial industry in the coming years. These improvements make it easier to gather and deliver data. But the reckoning comes not from only collecting data. The true value of the qualified surveyor or geospatial professional lies in his or her ability to interpret, analyze and develop data into useful information, or, to put it another way, to turn this data into knowledge.

In this workshop session, we will review these oncoming trends in the Geospatial industry and take a closer look at how these new technologies are changing our very understanding of what constitutes geospatial information management.

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