

STM RECEIVES CONTRACT FOR SOLID TERRAIN MODEL FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

3-D Model of San Francisco featured in energy efficiency display
at San Francisco City Hall's South Light Court

FILLMORE, CA – October 29, 2002 -- Solid Terrain Modeling (STM), manufacturer of the world's most accurate 3-D solid terrain models, has received a contract from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) for a model of the San Francisco area.

The San Francisco model is featured in an energy efficiency display at San Francisco City Hall's South Light Court. Designed to exemplify the Mayor's Energy Conservation Account (MECA), the display focuses on the City's commitment to renewable power sources and energy efficient equipment. The 3-foot x 3-foot, three-dimensional STM model shows every street, with miniature models of eight famous San Francisco landmarks and 30 flags identifying locations of various MECA initiatives. A plaque affixed at the front of the display has text that highlights the MECA program and a legend for the color-coded flags: Energy Star® certified refrigerators, new lighting, solar generation, heating/cooling, and co-generation. The eight stylized landmarks include the Transamerica pyramid building, Coit Tower, the Golden Gate Bridge, Pacific Bell Park (the Giants' Stadium), City Hall, and three others. Andrew Hardardt Design and Mitchell Design conceptualized and designed the display. Elevation data for the model were supplied by the US Geological Survey; imagery came from AirPhoto USA.

"The San Francisco STM model illustrates how our models can convey important information in an interesting and useful format," said Gary James, STM vice president, sales and marketing. "We can add pertinent details and features to each model that help communicate a client's message to their target audience."

ABOUT STM MODELS

Lawrence Faulkner and Mark Fisher spent 10 years developing a revolutionary, patent-pending technology to produce the world's most accurate, full-color, 3-D solid models of geographic terrain. In August 2000, they founded Solid Terrain Modeling Inc. (STM) to bring their spectacular models to the marketplace.

STM models provide a level of comprehension not found in any other mapping technology. People can gather around an STM model and view it from any angle. They can discuss it, touch it, point to specific features on it. As they do, everyone in the group "gets" it -- the scale, distances, terrain, coloration, points of view, sight lines and more.

To produce a model, STM uses satellite digital elevation and photometric data for the selected geographic area. The digital elevation data controls STM's highly-calibrated cutting machine as it carves the model into high-density plastic foam. Then, the photometric data guides STM's printing machine as it applies a satellite photograph directly onto the model's surface. (Other images, such as maps, photos, graphics, and text can also be printed on a model.) The result is an exact replica of the geographic area -- in breathtaking detail, and in brilliant color.

STM models can be any size -- and can range in subject from the topography of a single hillside to the geography of an entire country, continent or ocean. They are extraordinarily useful for any application that requires an understanding of geographic terrain. And, because both cutting and printing are computer-controlled, a 4-foot by 6-foot model can be completed and shipped in three days.

17 STM models are now on display at the National Geographic Society's Explorers Hall museum in Washington, DC. Currently, STM models are used by law firms; emergency response groups (fire, police); land management offices (construction, civil engineering, real estate, recreation); developers; transportation agencies; utilities (oil, gas, hydro); architects; museums; military, federal, state and municipal agencies; the U.S. Department of Defense and others. However, potential uses are limited only by the imagination.

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