



FUTA NEWS

ESRI SCORES FUTA HIGH

The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) an international supplier of Geographic Information System (GIS) with headquarters in Redland, California, United States of America has commended the management of the Federal University of Technology, Akure for its operations and adoption of software called ArcGIS. ESRI made this commendation through Simon Assuah Adu, Business Development Manager, Sibus Geospatial Limited (SGL), an organisation representing it in West Africa, based in Ghana. SGL, a key player in the dissemination of remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) in West Africa provides local intelligence solution to support and empower decision making for government and educational institutions.

While on a working visit to Nigeria, Simon said his mission at FUTA was to assess the level of adoption and implementation of software already in use since 2015 so as to determine its sustainability. According to him, his team is really satisfied with FUTA's performance and wish to do more for the institution. He said 'This visit has been the best in our sojourn in West African Universities. We have confirmed that FUTA is a great university with high potential. You have a great faculty and intelligent students. When we were recruiting we discovered that Okeke Joshua was the best among all the applicants. Now I know he is one of your products through your collaboration with RECTAS. This has impressed us and we are determined to renew the licence in May, 2017. The software has unique features for academic and allied activities and it has wide coverage'. Responding, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola appreciated ESRI and SGL for the donation to FUTA and the teams promise to renew the licence in May

2017 based on satisfactory performance. Daramola said FUTA is a modest and fast growing University doing things right and ready to consolidate on it. He appreciated the contributions of the Centre for Space Research Development and Applications (CESRA) to the success of his administration and the university's achievement. He said 'apart from certificate in the university, skill acquisition is very crucial. This software on GIS and Remote Sensing will give additional skills to those who use it and that can give them edge over others'.

Earlier, the Director, CESRA, Professor Joseph Akinyede said ESRI gave a grant for the use of the software to selected universities in West Africa with FUTA as the 6th beneficiary in Nigeria. He said the software facilitates academic and allied activities and it is available to all. He said effort is on-going to extend its use to all departments and units in the university. Professor Akinyede said ESRI is the owner of ArcGIS software which is one of the best in the world for Geographic Information System application. ESRI has an education package software to give a grant to 100 universities in Africa. The mission of the team was to monitor the progress of the adaptation and review the grant. At the moment the ArcGIS version is 10.5. According to him, the commercial value of the software is \$200,000 per annum for subscription, while the capacity value for students training is \$36,000.