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Dr. Sylvia Spengler and other Program Officers
National Science Foundation
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The Open Ontology Repository (OOR) initiative[1] is pleased to support the INTEROP (NSF 07-565) proposal from Nancy Wiegand and other members of the Spatial Ontology Community of Practice (SOCoP).

The Open Ontology Repository initiative was created in late 2007 as a means of fostering the use and adoption of ontologies. It has been incubated by the Ontolog Forum and was the focus of the 2008 Ontology Summit[2] co-organized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and others. OOR advocates and promotes the open sharing of ontology content and ontology repository technology. The latter is being realized in an open source software development project focused on supporting publication, reuse, and maintenance of open source ontologies.

OOR is currently a volunteer organization, including participants from government, industry, and academia. One of our bootstrapping strategies has been to align with funding proposals that further our goals and can contribute to our software base. The SOCoP proposal is a perfect example.

The current OOR implementation is based on the general purpose BioPortal infrastructure developed by Stanford University, the Mayo Clinic, and other collaborators. Other active contributors to OOR include Northeastern University, the University of Toronto, Raytheon, BBN, and CIM3.

We look forward to collaboration with members of SOCoP to support the adoption and use of ontologies in the geospatial domain.

Respectfully yours,

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[1]http://openontologyrepository.org
[2]http://ontolog.cim3.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?OntologySummit2008
[3]Leo Obrst, the third OOR Co-Convener, is prohibited from endorsing third party proposals due to his affiliation with an FFRDC.