

15 August 2012

Russia rocks up with the world's biggest jigsaw piece

One of the 'missing pieces' of the world's geological map, the Russian Federation and its neighbours, is now available to view online – over 22 million square kilometres, or 15 per cent of the Earth's total land surface!

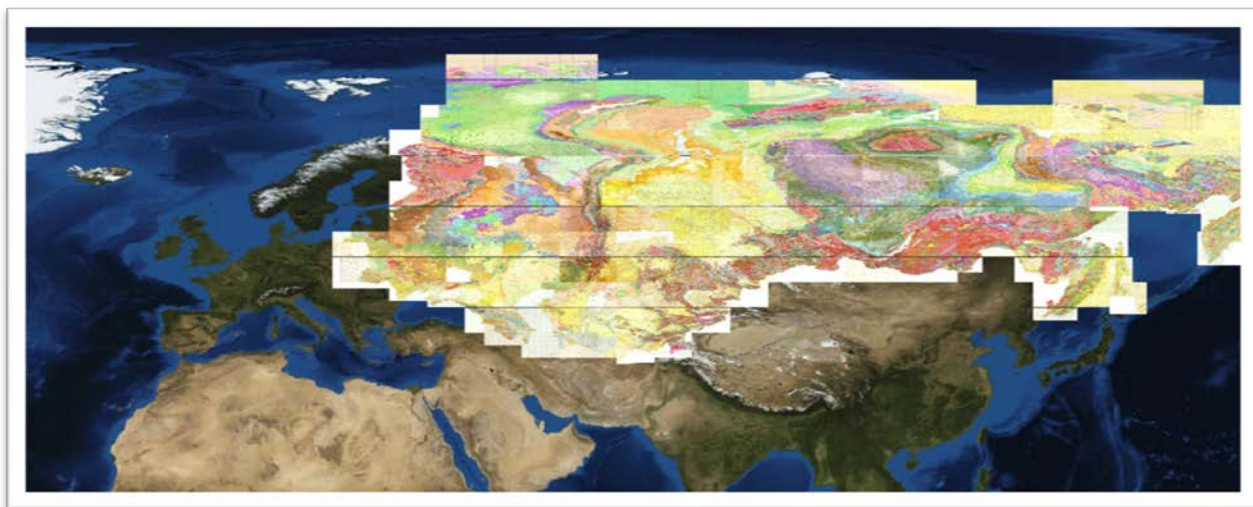
The Russian Geological Research Institute ([VSEGEI](#)) launched the map data at the 34th International Geological Congress ([IGC](#)), in Brisbane, Australia, in August 2012. This is the first digital geological map of the whole of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and neighbouring countries; the maps can be viewed via [OneGeology](#).

[OneGeology](#) helps deliver dynamic digital geological map data for the world. This data, from over 60 nations, can be viewed through the [OneGeology Portal](#) – via state of the art internet technology 'web services'.

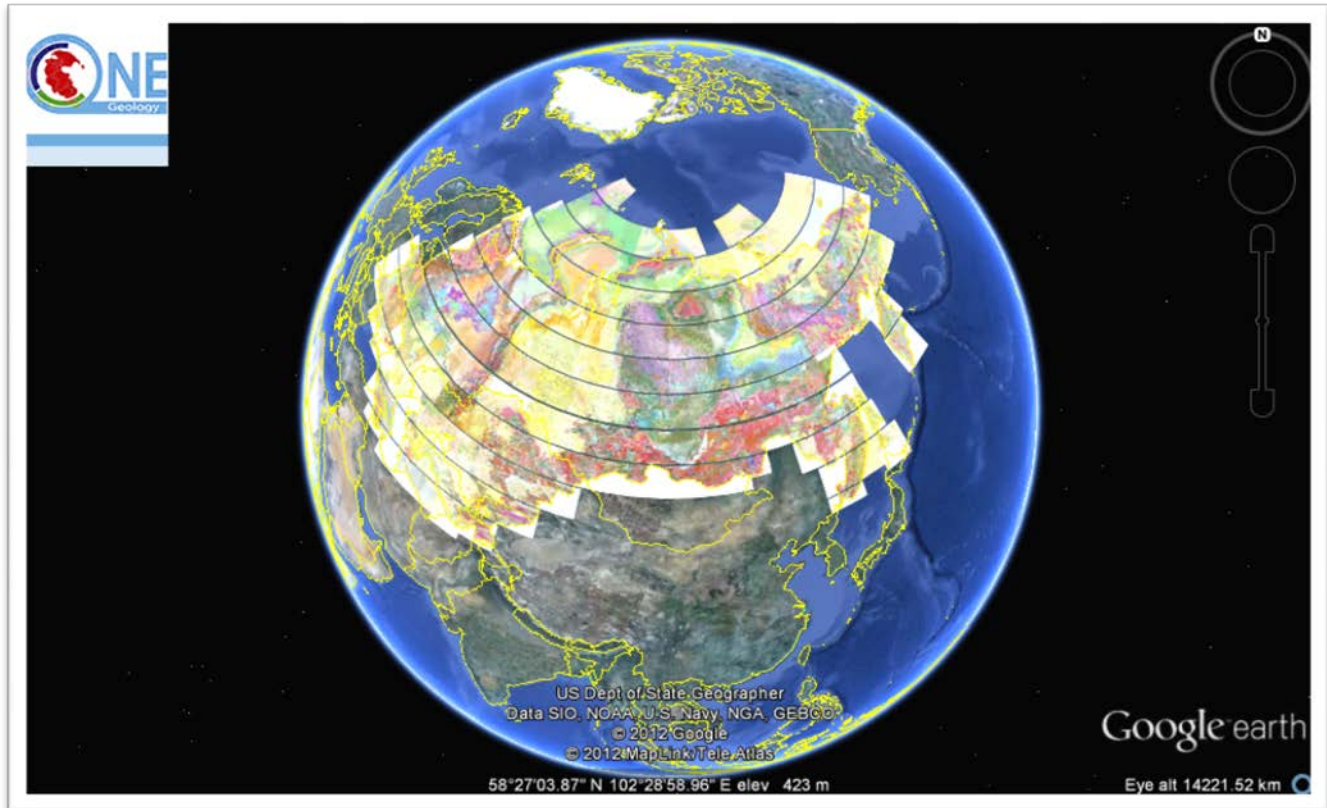
The CIS geological data will be invaluable to mining and oil and gas companies, environmental agencies, researchers, education and government. The data represents the results of a national programme of geological mapping of the former Soviet Union between 1964 and 1990.

The new CIS map service is the most extensive set of information available through the [OneGeology Portal](#). The service is an excellent example of the adoption of standards across the world that, for the first time, allows geological maps to be made freely accessible across the internet in the same format from many different sources.

The decision to prepare the CIS map data, which is generated from over one hundred 1:1 000 000 scale geological maps for integration into the international OneGeology project, was taken at the highest level and announced at the 15th Session of the Intergovernmental Council in September 2011 in the Kyrgyz Republic.



The first digital geological map of the whole of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and neighbouring countries. (OneGeology © 2012).



The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and neighbouring countries data is generated from over one hundred 1:1 000 000 scale geological maps; here we can see the KML file of the data loaded into Google earth.

Ian Jackson who coordinates OneGeology said:

‘This is an enormous achievement, scientifically and in sheer geographic extent. It is hard evidence of the way, via the Internet, that science is now opening up its riches so that everyone across the world, public and industry, can benefit from decades of research.’

Ends



OneGeology Press Release

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How to view the CIS/Russian maps

Go to the [OneGeology Portal](http://portal.onegeology.org/) (<http://portal.onegeology.org/>);

1. click on 'View layers' in the menu bar
2. scroll down to the Europe layer, click the + to open it
3. click + Commonwealth of Independent States
4. tick RUSSIA_VSEGEI_1M_BLS
5. the maps may take a few seconds to load

The screenshot displays the OneGeology Portal interface. At the top, the logo and tagline "Making Geological Map Data for the Earth Accessible" are visible. Below the navigation bar, the "View layers" menu is open, showing a hierarchical list of regions and geological units. The "Commonwealth of Independent States" is expanded, and the "RUSSIA_VSEGEI_1M_BLS" layer is checked. The main map area shows a geological map of Europe and Russia, with the Russian map data overlaid on a satellite-style background map.



OneGeology Press Release

Notes for Editors

OneGeology is a global project involving over 117 countries and 138 geological survey organisations to make available the geological map data from across the world via the internet. It is also exchanging the know-how between those scientists, and establishing the standards to do that. OneGeology was launched in 2007 and information on it can be found at www.onegeology.org

The A.P. Karpinsky Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGE) was established in 1882 as Russia's national geological survey organisation to map the nation's geology and mineral prospectivity.

The International Geological Congress, held last week in Brisbane, Australia (<http://www.34igc.org>), brought together over 5000 delegates to showcase the latest advances in the geosciences. The congress is held every four years and is the Olympics for geoscience research and development.

The British Geological Survey hosts the OneGeology website and some of its web services www.bgs.ac.uk.