

REPORT
EUROPEAN LIDAR MAPPING FORUM
WORLD FORUM, THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS
TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY 30/11/2010 – 01/12/2010

The European LIDAR Mapping Forum 2010 was the first of its kind held in Europe continent after experiencing the success of similar event held several times in the United States. With the focus for airborne, bathymetric, terrestrial as well as mobile mapping systems with LIDAR, it gathers more than 500 representatives from European and International practitioners and expertise of LIDAR technology and services. This 2-day event is packed with presentations (both oral and poster) from various institutions and companies, together with exhibitions and workshops specifically accomplished to provide basic understanding of LIDAR benefits and technology towards potential buyers and novice operators. Several mobile mapping vehicles were also made available on the venue's foyer in allowing attendees to have a look around them. One of the mobile mapping systems was also made available for a short tour, therefore me and my colleagues grab this opportunity to have a 5 minutes ride with the systems, as well as a brief introduction on how the system works.

Spending the outmost of this 2-day event, I did not pass the chance of meeting and exchanging ideas with the current operators and users on the basic approach of the software, algorithms developed by various academicians in handling LIDAR data plus mapping them, and not forgetting the technology behind the LIDAR itself. It is amazing to know the widely available usage of LIDAR in various applications – from surveying, monitoring, tracking as well as mobile mapping and visualization. Even though this event is particularly focusing on outdoor application, indoor mapping using LIDAR is also in demand after having some discussions with some building surveyors, civil engineers and architects.

Suitable with the focus of this event, most of the exhibitions (both software and hardware) are limited towards outdoor applications only. Below are some of the featured software that can handle both indoor and outdoor:

Software	Features
Pointools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible with most available CAD software (Revit, AutoCAD, SketchUp) • Suitable for various type of LIDAR (Farro, RIEGL, Topcon, Leica) • Price: ≈ €2000
Geosoft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works like a CAD software
Alice Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input: LIDAR + stereo images • Currently in the stage of developing a new version that can handle automatic reconstruction • Price: ≈ €5000

Due to the above limitations, there is a need towards 3D modelling of indoor scenery, especially to handle environment under occlusion and clutter, as what I'm trying to develop for my research. Various applications from as-built drawings to facility management services can have the benefit from this research.

By
 Shazmin Aniza Abdul Shukor
 Warwick Manufacturing Group
 University of Warwick