



**Letter of intent  
for the participation  
in the „GIS Forum Danube“**

**History:**

The „GIS Forum Danube“ was founded in 1997 as a trilateral working group by the waterway directorates from Germany, Austria and Slovakia. As common goals these members defined the development of an intensive exchange of geographical data and a close cooperation in the field of waterway management along the Danube waterway. Since 1999 the group has been supported by the Danube Commission and had been asked to handle topics related to River Information Services (RIS). At this time the name of this trilateral working group was changed into “GIS Forum Danube”. In the following Hungary joined the meetings in 2000, Croatia in 2002 and Romania as well as the Ukraine in 2003.

Nowadays European states grow together and the European Union is extending towards the East. Therefore it is of utmost importance that inland navigation along the Danube waterway can rely on internationally compatible systems. Following this purpose the European Union has agreed on inviting European countries to implement pan-European River Information Services (RIS) by the end of 2005 at the conference of ministers of transport in Rotterdam (September 2001). By following these demands the “GIS Forum Danube” also guarantees the implementation of vital basic conditions along the European Corridor VII in line with the White Book of the European Commission (Brussels 12/09/2001).

**Participating companies/administrations:**

The country AUSTRIA is represented by the following company/administration:

Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology Department II/21 - Federal waterway management

Name of company/administration

Short description (max. 200 words):

The Federal Waterway Management is a department of the Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology. Its main responsibilities and duties are:

- hydraulic engineering, water management, hydrography, ecology, land and water surveys, geographic information systems, management of estates, legislation for the Danube waterway;
- support of flood protection measures along the Danube, March and Taya according to national law
- enforcement of bilateral agreements with Slovakia in connection to hydraulic, navigational, ecological and hydrographical issues.
- representation of the Austrian republic in international platforms (e.g. European Union, ECD or bilateral as well as international agreements like the Danube Convention, Cross border Commissions etc.)



**Participating persons:**

Following persons are nominated as members of the Steering Committee:

Dr. Leo Grill	Federal Waterway Management	Head of department
Name	Company/administration	Function

DI Wolfgang Stuckart	Federal Waterway Management	Deputy head of department
Name	Company/administration	Function

According to the rules stated within the "Memorandum - GIS Forum Danube" (Vienna, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004) the representatives are willing to participate in the GIS Forum and accept the commonly passed rules for the co-operation. The participants will participate in the common meetings and are willing to stick to the commonly recommended agreements and rules.

Wien, am 28. Jänner 2005

Place, Date



Dr. Leo Grill, head of department