OASIS | HUB

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
December 2016

Q	What is the Oasis HUB?
A	The Oasis HUB is a web-based marketplace for the publishing and purchasing of environmental data, tools and services. The HUB is currently in its pre-launch phase.
Q	**Is the Oasis HUB the same as Oasis Lost Modelling Framework (LMF)?**
A	No. Oasis LMF is a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee and owned by its members who come from within the insurance and reinsurance community. Oasis LMF's mission is to create and foster links throughout the wide community of those interested in modelling catastrophic risk across business, academia, and government. The Oasis Hub is a commercial membership organisation, with the aim of addressing the challenges of sourcing, reviewing and licensing environmental data, tools and services for a growing community of practitioners. Also, the Oasis HUB aims to make the publishing, promotion and licensing of environmental data easier, and more lucrative for academic and other partners active in its creation.
Q	**Which audiences would benefit from using the Oasis HUB?**
A	The range of beneficiaries from the Oasis HUB is growing daily, as global coverage of new datasets, tools and services continues to expand. Some example use cases are: • Cat modellers to validate existing models. • Country risk officers and city mayors to understand their vulnerabilities to extreme weather events and natural hazards, and create appropriate adaptation strategies. • Risk managers in banks to understand the exposure of their portfolios of loans and assets. • Risk, Operations and Supply Chain Managers to understand the vulnerabilities within their supply chain. • Risk managers within real estate organisations, to understand their portfolios exposure to risk. • Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and charities, to forecast where and when disasters are likely to occur and

	prepare accordingly.
Q	**What does the Oasis HUB do differently? There are already many sources of free and increasingly commercial environmental data available.**
A	For practitioners looking for data, the Oasis HUB provides advanced search, visualisation and manipulation of sample data, to determine quickly if the data is suitable for use. For publishers of data, the Oasis HUB manages the marketing, licensing, payment and access to the data. The HUB also offers tools and consulting services. A crowdsourcing application allows practitioners and providers to request, and offer, data, tools and services across the whole community, categorised by location, type of risk or hazard and industry sector, if applicable.
Q	**What tools are available?**
A	Initially open source tools are available broadly categorised as follows: • Hazard Scenario's • Hydraulic Tools : flooding simulation • Meteorological: NetCDF viewers, converters • Vector Tools • Mapping • Statistical Tools • Programming Tools Both new open source and commercial tools will be added to the HUB in the early part of 2017, and on an on-going basis.
Q	**How does crowdsourcing work?**
A	Crowdsourcing on the Oasis HUB is the means by which solutions to challenges, not readily available, are found. Practitioners requiring new data, tools, or consulting/advisory services can place a request in the Crowdsourcing application. Registered Oasis HUB members receive notification when a new request is made. The notification includes a link to further details, if there is budget associated to support the completion of the request, and contact details of the requestor. Providers of data, tools and services can also use the crowdsourcing application to notify users of their capabilities. Requests can be satisfied with or without financial exchange, on a one-to-one basis, or collaboratively, between a number of actors. Crowdsourcing facilitates collaboration between parties to satisfy a particular need, which individually would not be commercially viable.
Q	**Where does the data come from?**

A	Data is provided from a growing number of commercial partnerships with leading academic, government and specialist organisations, as well as building on freely available data. For the pre-launch phase the data is freely available.
Q	**How many datasets are available?**
A	There will be around 50 datasets available at launch time. The types of hazard covered include: wind, flood, seismic, tornado, hurricane, storm surge, tsunami, extra tropical storms, volcano, landslide and earthquakes to name a few. Country, region and worldwide data are available, varying across the different categories. New datasets are being added almost daily, and the range of categories is set to expand early in the new year to cover vulnerability, and socio-economic data, along with additional environmental and natural hazards.
Q	**Is there a charge to use the Oasis HUB?**
A	Registration is FREE and provides access to basic site and application functions, such as creating a user profile, searching for data, tools and services. Full membership gives access to the community functions, crowd sourcing and the ability to upload data, tools and consulting service descriptions. **Pricing will be announced soon. As part of the pre-launch, full one year membership is being made freely available, for a limited time. This is in part, a way of saying "thank you" for your interest in the Oasis HUB during its start-up phase. Building an active community will not only improve the breadth and depth of services available to members, it will also accelerate the rate at which academic theory becomes actionable adaptation outcomes.** For data provider's different levels of engagement with the Oasis HUB are available, depending on the level of interaction, and the scale and scope of data and services that are being offered. Pricing will be announced soon.
Q	**What about developing economies? How will you distribute large datasets and associated files?**
A	We recognise the areas most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather events, as a result of climate change, are those least able to cope, currently. As telecommunications infrastructure in these (often remote) areas is not the fastest, or most reliable, fulfilment of requests for data and tools will be through the physical shipment of a USB hard drive. Once the data and tools have been installed, the hard drive can be returned to the Oasis HUB office.
Q	**How do I get involved?**
A	The easiest way to experience the Oasis HUB is by creating a FREE account. Simply point your browser at www.oasishub.co

Q	I'd like to discuss a dataset/tool/service I'd like to make available through the Oasis HUB. Who should I contact and how?
A	Jim Craig – Technical Marketing Director email: jim.craig@oasishub.uk phone: 0044 (0) 7815 771 967 skype: jimcraig twitter: @oasis_hub LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/oasis-hub