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Funding Opportunity Selection Committee

U.S. Department of State
U.S. Embassy Lisbon, Office of Public Affairs
Av. Forças Armadas
1600-081 Lisboa

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I respectfully request a grant of \$24,500 over a twelve-month period for the development of a free and open source spatial news web application.

This tool seeks to demonstrate the value of incorporating place to online news media. This project supports users (readers, researchers, geointelligence officers, and news publishers) by providing a method for contextualizing the location of both isolated and potentially related events. Though the opportunities for such a tool are vast, this initial proof of concept will be derived from Portuguese and US based study areas (publisher data and stakeholder interviews), and developed to support both English and Portuguese languages to ensure its value to both communities.

I believe the user experience of this type of project and the insights it can deliver are overdue in both the academic and commercial markets. I hope that as an open source project it will serve as the foundation for a transformation in the way that publishers communicate with their users. However, I am most eager to produce a tool that could be incorporated in city management to allow officials to both better monitor their districts, as well as empower citizens to better understand the events happening in their own communities. Ideally, the results of this project will provide a tangible starting point from which those conversations may begin.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I am available to discuss the concept of the proposal and any questions you might have. I eagerly await your response

Sincerely,

CAROLINE (CALLIE) WENTLING