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National Geothermal Data System – Free Online Access to America’s Digital Geothermal Resources

Tucson, AZ - May 29, 2014 The US Department of Energy (DOE) formally launched the [National Geothermal Data System](#) (NGDS) on April 30, 2014. Populated with geothermal-relevant data from all 50 states, the NGDS has the potential to fundamentally change America’s energy portfolio by driving efficient exploration for clean, renewable energy from Earth’s interior. State Geological Surveys across the country significantly contributed to this effort by digitizing and making available online more than 30 major types of data resulting in the availability of more than 7 million interoperable data points including 650,000 well logs, 530,000 borehole temperatures, and 1.7 million oil and gas, water, and geothermal well headers.

The State Geological Surveys contributions to the NGDS project was funded by a \$21.9 million agreement from the DOE’s Geothermal Technologies Office and led by the Arizona Geological Survey on behalf of the Association of American State Geologists (AASG). *Scientific American* touted the beta form of NGDS in “[Heated to the Core](#)” while Sara Pratt, associate editor of *EARTH* magazine, described NGDS as, “one of the most successful programs to date,” for data sharing and Big Data in the geosciences (“[Digitizing Earth: Developing a cyberinfrastructure for the geosciences](#)”).

NGDS is powered by U.S. Geoscience Information Network (USGIN), a web-based, data integration framework in which users maintain their data in a distributed system. USGIN and NGDS strive to enable data interoperability, which allows data to be accessed and read in multiple formats significantly reducing the time it takes to retrieve and analyze data. The system infrastructure utilizes free and open source software whenever possible and hosts a suite of custom analytical and visualization tools.

Find out more about the National Geothermal Data System at <http://geothermaldata.org/> and the US Geoscience Information Network at <http://usgin.org/>. NGDS and USGIN promote distributed data sharing and data interoperability through a series of open source and/or community adopted standards and protocols. Information on how to implement a similar system is available at <http://usgin.org/>. Additional information on the Association of American State Geologists is available at www.stategeologists.org/.

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