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Renewed public map service of the National Land Survey of Finland

Submitted by Finland**

MapSite, a popular online map service provided by the National Land Survey of Finland, was a pioneer among map browsers on the Internet. Launched in 1996, it was the first public national Internet map service in Europe. Despite fears to the contrary, free access to digital maps has not posed a threat to the paper maps offered by the Land Survey. At present, 5,000 users visit MapSite every day.

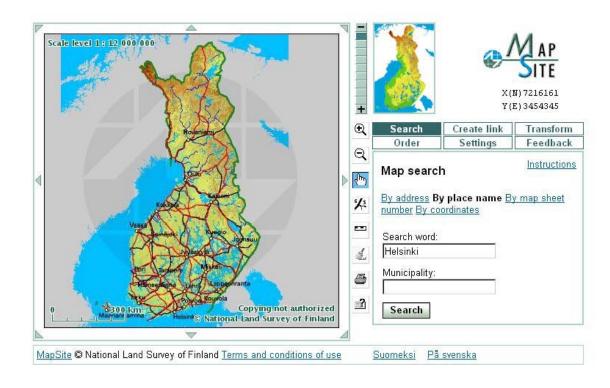
MapSite is composed of two services: Citizen's MapSite and Professional's MapSite. The latter is subject to a charge and allows users not only to view maps but also to search for and browse Finnish cadastral data and real estate sale price information maintained by the National Land Survey.

The new version of Citizen's MapSite provides maps in different scales covering the whole country. Users can also order printed maps and map printouts of various scales. Street address and place-name searches are available. Addresses cover the whole of Finland: cities, towns and rural areas. Place-name queries are based on the nomenclature (800,000 basic map names) of the geographic names register of the National Land Survey. As registration is no longer required, direct access to Citizen's MapSite is possible from the address www.karttapaikka.fi.

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