



In May of 2006, Cornerstone GIS began operating in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Cornerstone GIS specializes in information management and acquisition. Joshua Chastain, the founder and owner of Cornerstone GIS, is a certified geographic information system (GIS) professional. Mr. Chastain received his degree from Coastal Carolina University (CCU) in Marine Science and subsequently became a CCU employee. He immersed himself in the fields of coastal and marine science research. Over the next five years, Joshua logged countless hours of experience within these fields. Some of the notable projects and organizations that Mr. Chastain has been involved with are the South Carolina Coastal Erosion Program (<http://camelot-2.coastal.edu/>), the United States Minerals Management Service, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the United States Geological Survey, and the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium.

The breadth of Mr. Chastain's knowledge and experience is now encompassed in the products and services offered by Cornerstone GIS. The company's inaugural contract is with the Shore Protection Office of Carteret County, North Carolina and involves the design and implementation of an internet map service for the county's coastal and marine data. Cornerstone GIS is also involved with a small beach nourishment project at Isle of Palms, South Carolina. The project is in the permitting stage right now, and if permitted, Cornerstone GIS will manage the process.

Cornerstone GIS is also working with development companies. Developers often base their land acquisitions on certain spatial criteria. Cornerstone GIS provides the development industry with more efficient means of applying those criteria and more land parcels fitting their criteria to choose from. The company can also provide parcel specific information and test development scenarios before development occurs. All of this is termed geo-enabled business decision making, and as its advantages are realized it is slowly infiltrating industries world-wide.

In August and September of 2006, the Coastal Area SBDC assisted Joshua Chastain with the preparation and assembly of his business plan for Cornerstone GIS. The counselors worked with Mr. Chastain to determine the start-up capital requirements, along with a breakeven analysis, 5-year pro forma profit and loss statements, cash flow statements and balance sheets. Monthly pro formas were prepared for the first year of operations. This plan was used in the efforts to obtain financing for the start-up of Cornerstone GIS which has allowed Mr. Chastain's expertise and technology to provide critical information for government entities. Cornerstone GIS is now based out of Charleston, South Carolina. The company's goal is to provide a resource that enables people to operate their own businesses more efficiently, whatever that business may be.

For more information about Cornerstone GIS, visit:

www.cornerstonegis.net