



National Geographic Institute

Your world,
our reference

The **National Geographic Institute** (IGN for Instituto Geográfico Nacional) was created on September the 12th, 1870 and it was headed by General Carlos Ibáñez e Ibáñez de Ibero. The new institution inherited the tools, the staff and the works from its predecessor, the General Statistics Committee. Among other, its initial mission included "determining the Earth's shape and dimensions, geodetic triangulations of various kinds, precision levelling, topographic triangulation, map and cadastral topography, and determining and preserving the international units of weights and measures".

Over time, it underwent several organizational changes that modified its scope of work, sometimes extending it, and sometimes transferring some of its responsibilities to new specialized centres, such as (using their current name) the State Meteorology Agency, the National Statistics Institute, the Directorate General of Cadastre and the Spanish Metrology Centre.



MTN25 sheet 807-I fragment

In 2020, the current **Directorate General of the National Geographic Institute**, under the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda, culminates a century and a half of geographic engineering. During its life, the IGN has conducted the observation, measurement, analysis, evaluation and representation of our territory and the outer space.

Over the past few decades, the Spanish society has experienced a deep social, economic and technological transformation and therefore the IGN has also deeply changed, as a scientific-technical institution, in the fields of Astronomy, Geophysics, Geodesy, Territory Observation, Cartography and the production and sharing of geographic information.

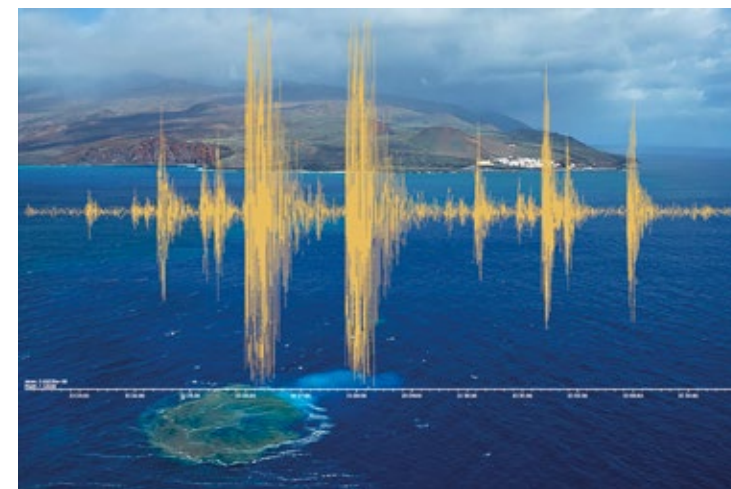
This transformation has also required the National Geographic Institute, in its current capacity as Technical Secretariat of the High Geographic Council, an advisory body to the Government, and together with its autonomous body, the National Centre for Geographic Information (CNIG, for its Spanish acronym), to take on the role of supporting and promoting the National Cartographic System, the regulatory framework that our country has adopted for the coordination and collaboration between public administrations in cartographic and geographic information production.



Yebes Astronomy Centre

Throughout 2020, the IGN's most precious asset, its staff, will organize numerous acts and events as a tribute to its 150th anniversary, as a way of showing how proud they are of being part of a Spanish reference institution.

It is, in fact, a tribute to all the staff who has been part of this institution throughout its history.



Seismogram of the island of El Hierro



In 2020, various activities and events will take place on the occasion of the Institute's 150th anniversary. Further information will be provided in due course through the website:

www.ign.es/web/ign/portal/150-aniversario

and on social networks:



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Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica
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1870



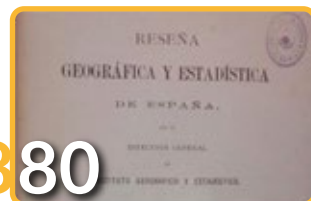
The National Geographic Institute is created (September the 12th) under the General Directorate of Statistics, within the Ministry of Public Works, as a scientific institution with authority on Geodesy, Levelling, Cartography, Topography, Cadastre and Weights and Measures.

1875



The first sheet of the National Topographic Map is published at a scale of 1:50,000 (tile number 559-Madrid).

1880



Start of the production of the "First Geographical and Statistical Review of Spain" (predecessor of the National Atlas of Spain), which was completed in 1888.

1909



The first international seismic station is installed at the Geophysical Observatory of Toledo.

1910



Creation of the Geographic Institute's Official Printing Office.

1922



The first stone of the third and current headquarters of the IGN is set at General Ibáñez de Ibero 3, Madrid, in a ceremony attended by His Majesty King Alfonso XIII (July the 7th).

1956



Implementation of the Sonseca Seismological Station, a special seismic network for the detection and verification of nuclear tests (nowadays, a Primary Station of the International Monitoring System for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, CTBTO, United Nations).

1973



Creation of the Astronomical Observatories of Yebes (Guadalajara) and Calar Alto (Almería).

2004



The first version of the Spanish Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDEE, for its Spanish acronym) geportal, managed and coordinated by the CNIG, is presented. The National Geographic Institute takes on responsibilities for volcanic monitoring and alerts.

2003



Completion of the National Topographic Map of Spain at scale 1:25,000, MTN25, with the publication of its 4,123 sheets.

2001



Completion of the "National Geodetic Network through Space Techniques" project (REGENTE, for its Spanish acronym).

1997



Beginning of the implementation of the National Geodetic Network of Permanent GNSS Stations. During the next year the National Geographic Institute's Real Time Positioning Service was developed.

1993



The observation, calculation and compensation of the Lower Level Geodetic Network (ROI, for its Spanish acronym) are completed, which becomes the geodetic reference framework ED50 (previous to the current ETRS89).

1988



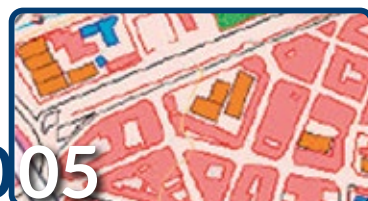
Creation of the National Centre for Geographical Information (CNIG) as an autonomous body of a commercial nature, under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport through the National Geographic Institute's Directorate General (Law 37/1988 of the General State Budget 1989, Article 122).

1986



Law 7/1986 on the Regulation of Cartography is published, assigning the creation and conservation of basic and derived terrestrial cartography to the National Geographic Institute. The Council of Ministers entrusts the National Geographic Institute to create the National Atlas of Spain.

2005



Start of the National Topographic DataBase, BTN25. The Ministers of Defence, Public Works and the Environment sign a Protocol at the National Geographic Institute to cover the Spanish territory with satellite images, within the framework of the National Plan for Territorial Observation. The Prince and Princess of Asturias inaugurate the 40-metre radio telescope at the Yebes Observatory (Guadalajara).

2007



Royal Decrees are published approving the statute governing the CNIG and regulating the Spanish National Coordinates Reference System and the National Cartographic System as a new model of cooperation between all public Administrations in Cartography and Geographic Information production.

2010



Law 14/2010 on the infrastructures and services of geographic information in Spain (LISIGE) is published, assigning the presidency of the permanent and territorial commissions of the High National Geographical Council, as well as its Technical Secretariat, to the National Geographic Institute.

2013



Approval by the Council of Ministers of the First National Cartographic Plan 2013-2017 coordinated by the National Geographic Institute. Inauguration of the first 13.2 m "Jorge Juan" radio telescope as part of the Spanish-Portuguese project "Atlantic Network of Geodynamic and Space Stations" (RAEGE) at the Yebes Observatory (Guadalajara).

2014



The National Geographic Institute undertakes the coordination in Spain of the Territorial Service of the European program Copernicus (Copernicus Land).

2018



The National Geographic Institute publishes the "Spain's National Atlas for the 21st Century" (ANEXXI), in close collaboration with 38 scientific and academic institutions (ANEXXI Network), which is awarded the Communication Prize by the Spanish Geographic Society, an award presented by His Majesty King Felipe VI in 2019.

2019



The National Geographic Institute participates in obtaining the first image of a black hole shadow. Cartographic exhibition at the National Geographic Institute's headquarters on the 500th Anniversary of the first circumnavigation of the Earth is opened.