

City Hall Commissions 3D Map of Moscow

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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A preview of the service.

IT Geo has won a Moscow government contract worth more than 30 million rubles (\$1 million) to create a high-definition 3D panorama of the city using laser scans, a news report said.

The 3D images will primarily be used by City Hall for urban management purposes, but some will also be made available to the public via the [eatlas.mos.ru](#) website before the end of 2013, Vedomosti reported.

Moscow-based IT Geo and its partner in the project, HelgiLab, have so far photographed and scanned 6,000 kilometers of Moscow's streets over the past three months, IT Geo said in a statement on its website. Those images are being updated regularly, IT Geo director Sergei Gevorkov said.

Google Street View and Yandex Maps already offer 3D images of Moscow, but Gevorkov and HelgiLab chief Oleg Ilichev said that those views are based on photography alone, not a combination of photography and laser scans.

Unlike photographs, laser scans can be used to make 3D views that can then be linked with geographical coordinates and applied to various urban information databases, Ilichev said.

Comparing regularly updated panoramic images with cadastral maps would let the authorities track any unauthorized construction in the city, and create an inventory of smaller objects that might spring up, such as kiosks and road signs, he said.

Yandex Maps attracts more than 23 million visitors each month, who frequently use street views to verify a route or check road signs, said Yandex spokeswoman Asya Melkumova, adding that the company wasn't worried about losing visitors to the City Hall project.

Gevorkov declined to say exactly how much the project would cost, saying only that it might be more costly than Google's or Yandex's photography of Moscow.

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