

# Tokenising Geospatial Data

**Building a Sustainable Geospatial  
Knowledge Economy for the AI Era**

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**AI will create a massive wave of questions against geospatial data.**

**The future GKI stack needs to be ready.**



# A modern GKI stack needs a value exchange layer

Cloud, AI and interoperability are essential, but incomplete for AI-scale geospatial use

If demand for geospatial intelligence is increasing drastically, how do we sustainably fund the data that underpins it?

Open data solved access.  
It did not solve sustainability

**Operational decisions & user workflows**  
approvals | service delivery | emergency response

**AI applications / copilots / analytics**  
conversational GIS | forecasting | assistants

**Interoperability / APIs / semantics**  
standards | metadata | APIs | ontologies

**Cloud-native data platforms**  
storage | compute | orchestration | data services

**Authoritative geospatial data**  
cadastre | addresses | imagery | hazards | transport

**Value Exchange Layer**  
metering | provenance | smart contracts | micro-payments

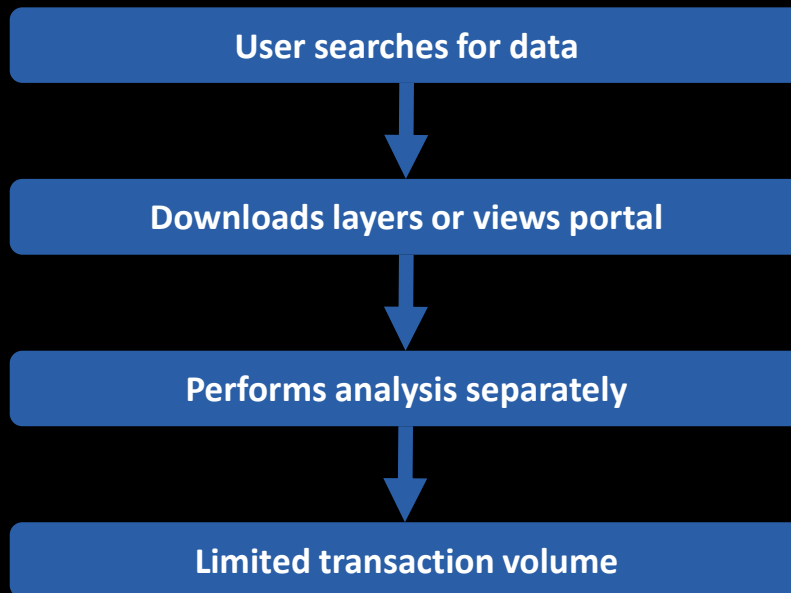
**AI is changing geospatial from  
visible human use to invisible  
machine consumption.**



# AI changes the economics of geospatial data use

The shift is from visible human access to high-frequency background machine use

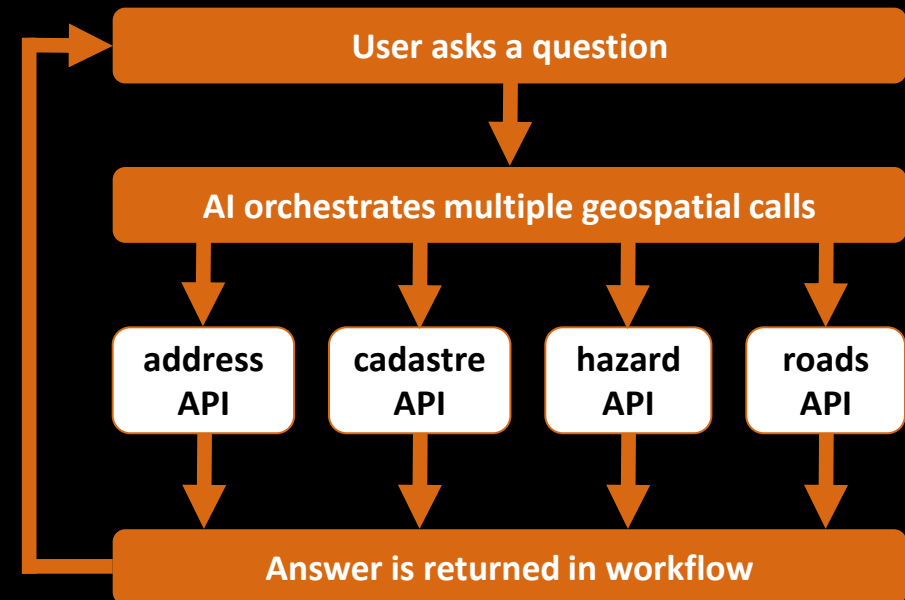
## Traditional model



**Most value exchange is manual, slow or absent**

Use is visible at the front end, but not continuously metered across downstream applications

## AI-era model



**Tiny interactions can accumulate into major use at machine scale**

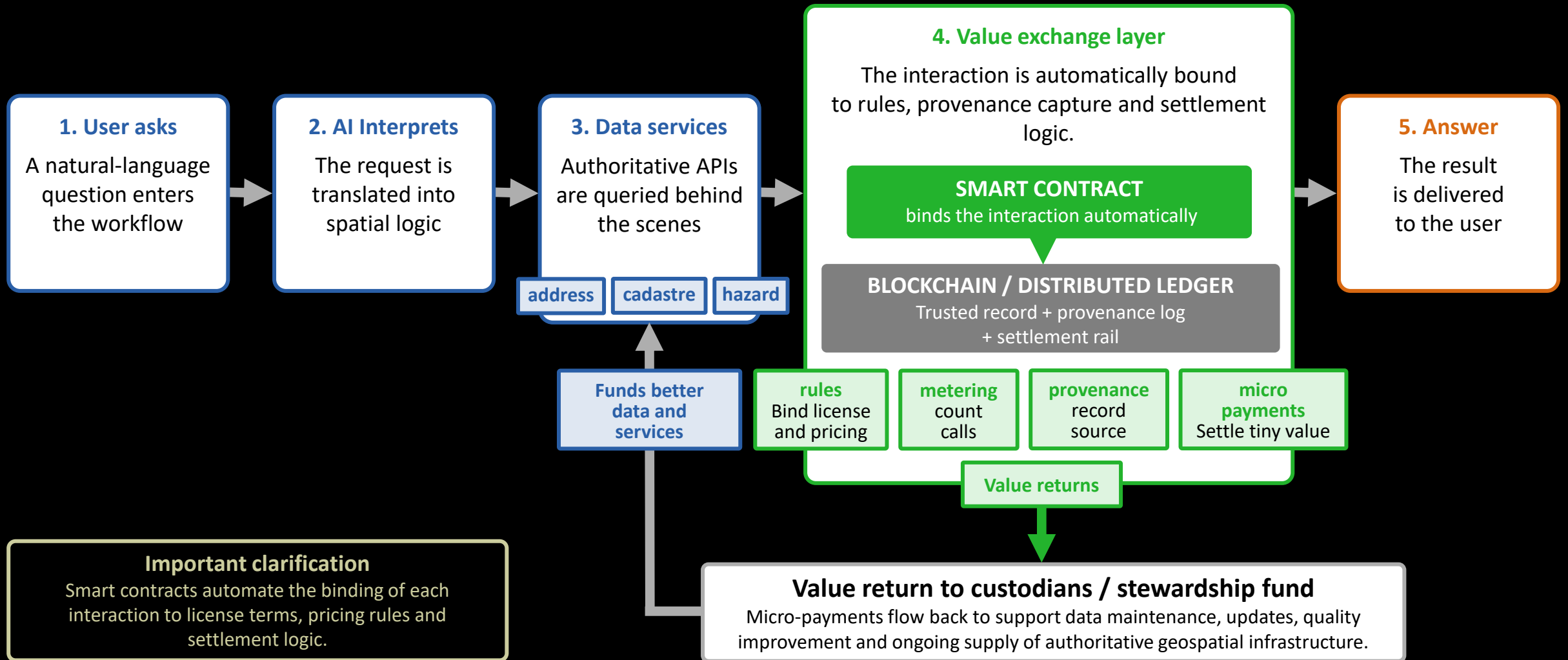
The geospatial infrastructure is increasingly used in the background of AI services, without a built-in return path to support stewardship

**If use can be measured,  
value can flow back into stewardship.**



# The Value Exchange Layer

How smart contracts, trusted records and value return work inside the GKI stack.



**The question is not whether  
to prepare, but how...**



# What countries should now consider

A value exchange layer is a design choice inside the GKI stack – not a one-size-fits-all model

## Open access vs licensed commercial use

Keep public-interest access open, while considering metering or charging for commercial or high-volume automated use.

## Centralised vs federated

Use one metering and settlement service for simplicity or allow multiple custodians to participate through a federated model.

## Build vs buy

Countries can build core governance rules themselves or use shared service providers to reduce complexity and speed adoption.

## Technology-neutral implementation

Start with the function: metering, smart contracts, provenance and settlement. The exact technology stack can evolve over time.

## Outcome-led pilot

Start with 2-3 high-demand datasets, expose APIs, meter usage, test smart contracts and evaluate value return.

Thank you  
Questions?