



Editorial

The recent conference organised by ESA on big data proved to be a useful and interesting event. The term “big data” belongs more to the marketing than to the technical world but it proved a strong enough pull to get around 200 people at the 3 day workshop to exchange on what it means for the world of Earth Observation. “Big data” embraces a number of other terms which are entering the everyday language alongside GIS such as the cloud and crowd-sourcing and which have relevance to EO service providers. Behind the marketing lie some very serious subjects which were discussed during the workshop.

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Summary

Issue 34 Summer 2013

EARSC Activities

[EARSC membership, gathering the voice of geo-information industry](#)

EARSC is a non-profit-making organisation created in 1989 with the mission to foster the development of European Geo-Information Service Industry. Our main objective is to stimulate a sustainable market for geo-information services using EO data. Today, EARSC has about 65 members in more than 20 countries, and is a recognized association both in Europe and worldwide.

[EARSC recent meetings](#)

[We are pleased to welcome two new companies as EARSC members](#)

Interview

[Interview with Han Wensink, CEO of BMT Argoss and EARSC Chairman](#)

Industry Profile

[Kongsberg Satellite Services AS](#)

[Satellite-based oil spill detection by KSAT](#)

Member News

[1000mph land speed attempt relies on DMCii 'eye in the sky'](#)

Satellite imagery provided by DMCii is helping to plan the attempt to break the land speed record by the BLOODHOUND Project.

5th Summit on Earth Observation Business

12-13 September, 2013 – The Westin, Paris

A shrewder glance from space

What is the extent of real loss to the Russian forest during fire season? In recent years, the issue has been causing permanent conflicts between environmentalists and representatives of public authorities at both federal and regional levels. ScanEx RDC company believes that it is possible to accurately count our losses already today.

Astrium and CNES to improve Pléiades images quality

26 June 2013 – Astrium, Europe's leading space technology company, and CNES, have achieved a major improvement in Pléiades image quality, including sharper products and enhanced geometry.

Astrium Services Eyes Channel Growth

Toulouse, France. 9 July 2013 – The success of Astrium Services' recent global GEO-Information Services Channel Partner conference programme has confirmed the key role that the reseller community plays in the company's success across its three key business regions.

Award for Excellence and Innovation in INSPIRE 2013 to Planetek Italia

During the [INSPIRE Conference 2013](#) Planetek Italia has been assigned the AWARD for Academic Excellence and Innovation in INSPIRE related to the Small & Medium Enterprises (SME's) for the innovative activities in the field of INSPIRE and SDI development.

Big data from space: Imagery of Rome delivered in near real time

DMCii and long-term partner Spacemetric, have successfully delivered an image from satellite to end-user in just 11 minutes, as part of a demonstration at the European Space Agency's 'Big Data from Space' conference, where industry experts discuss how to distribute large volumes of data from space to the people that need it.

CoastColour and SeaSWIR by Brockmann-Consult

Presentation of recent results of the CoastColour and SeaSWIR projects at the CoastColour and SeaSWIR User Consultation Meeting.

DMCii increases downlink capacity with Svalbard ground station facilities

MC International Imaging (DMCii) has signed an agreement with Kongsberg Satellite Services (KSAT) that will increase the volume of imagery acquired and the

speed in which it can be delivered. The new facilities in Svalbard have allowed DMCii to receive 30% more data from day one, with the scope for significant further expansion in the future.

[DMCii streamlines use of satellite imagery in ArcGIS 10.2](#)

Esri International User Conference, San Diego, 8th July 2013: Satellite imagery from DMCii is now fully supported within Esri's popular ArcGIS software, making it easier for customers to work with the large multi-spectral images.

[ESA chooses the e-GEOS Matera Space Centre to support the operations of the Sentinel 1 and 2 satellites of the European GMES space programme.](#)

(Matera, July 18, 2012) e-GEOS has signed a contract with the European Space Agency (ESA) to provide, from the Matera Space Centre, satellite data acquisition and processing services in support of the operations of the first two satellites of the [Sentinel constellation](#)

[EUROSENSE successfully finished demonstration project for European Investment Bank](#)

The EIB is financing the construction of two sections of dual two lane motorway and associated access roads in Southern Poland (A1 and A4 Motorways). The realization of such large-scale infrastructure projects has a significant impact on the environment. It becomes thus

essential for the motorway providers, to pay close attention to both assessing and minimizing the resulting impact.

[GAF AG earth observation technology for IFAD supports rural development projects in Niger](#)

(17.05.2013) GAF provides state-of-the-art earth observation resources to create baseline data that support project activities in Maradi, Niger. Based on optical earth observation data with very high spatial resolution, products and services for an area of 34.500 km² will be delivered in order to provide recent and objective information over the entire region.

[Happy Sun by Flyby](#)

The service helps tourists to effectively protect themselves from solar radiation by monitoring the local environmental conditions. It allows them to get both information on solar radiation intensity in their holiday place, and advisements for sun exposure times and modalities, taking phototype into account.

[Integrated snow monitoring](#)

Gisat has been awarded a contract with the European Space Agency to develop a prototype system that integrates varying snow products and in-situ information.

[Metria mapped forests in Mozambique for](#)

FSC-certification

(2013-06-18) In order to show that Chikweti Forests fulfill forest certification requirements Metria mapped forest changes in time series of more than 70 satellite images covering forest concessions in Mozambique.

Monitoring territorial development trends in Europe

Gisat is responsible to design and develop a web based analytical platform for European Territorial Monitoring System within ESPON programme.

New COSMO-SkyMed Receiving Station in the Arctic

(June 28, 2013) e-GEOS (ASI/Telespazio) just signed a contract for the setting up of a COSMO-SkyMed Receiving Station in Sodankylä, Finland, to be operated by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) as a part of the Finnish Ministry of Transportation and to become operational before the end of 2012.

New location for Metria AB in Stockholm, Sweden

Metria in Stockholm is moving from Karlavägen 108 to Warfväges väg 35. You are most welcome to visit our new facilities!

OHB System AG awarded contract for the

development and integration of the SARah radar satellite reconnaissance system for the German federal armed forces

OHB System AG, a member of the space and technology group OHBAG (Prime Standard, ISIN: DE0005936124), has today signed a contract with the Federal Office of Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support of the Bundeswehr (BAAINBw) for the development and integration of the “SARah” satellite-based radar reconnaissance system. The contract has a total value of EUR 816 million.

PERILS provides satellite flood footprints for floods in Central Europe

During late May and early June 2013, heavy rainfall hit Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. Many rivers (Danube, Inn, Vltava, Elbe ...) have caused severe flood damage across Central Europe. SERTIT has been producing rapid flood snapshot footprints over this large flood event using numerous Earth Observation satellite images for the insurance and re-insurance industries. For more information, please contact us.

Planetek Hellas: when Greece is strong in Europe

Born from the initiative of Planetek Italia in 2005, Planetek Hellas is now a well established company that moves from Greece and operates throughout Europe.

Provision of 3D Mapping Data to the Indonesian Government Geological Survey

Provision of accurate 3D Mapping Data to generate new and update existing geological maps in extremely geologically active, heavily clouded regions is a challenge. The emergence of 3D radar mapping has proven to be a disruptive technology in this field.

RapidEye Contributes to REDD+ MRV Activities to Keep Guyana Green

The Guyana Forestry Commission together with Indufor Asia Pacific Ltd aimed at creating a REDD+ MRV system for the detection and reporting of national forest change in Guyana mainly based on RapidEye high-resolution imagery. AAM, RapidEye's distributor in Australia and New Zealand, managed the supply of the imagery for this project.

Recognition for delivery of HSE activity

The staff of BMT ARGOSS in Atyrau, Kazakhstan have been recognised by their customer, Agip KCO, for their delivery of HSE activity, and in particular, the prompt reporting of SAFE-R cards/reports. Agip KCO is committed to ensuring safer working practices for their staff and partners.

ScanEx news

July news on geospatial conference, meteorological support, wildfires, agro-control, ...

SMOS-Box version 2.3. and BEAM 4.11 released

Space Patrol: Why protesting if you can do the testing?

Why protesting if you can do the testing? A system for public monitoring from space to establish a dialogue with the authorities at the highest – orbital – level is being created in Russia. Together with its partners ScanEx RDC has plans to develop and open access to system called “Space Patrol” in 2013.

TerraSAR-X & TanDEM-X contribution to REDD+ MRV

About one fifth of all greenhouse gas emissions are caused by forest destruction with highest contribution from carbon-rich tropical forests. REDD+, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, aims to significantly reduce these emissions and enhance forest carbon stock by performance based payments. Proof of emissions reductions requires a special system of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) for large, inaccessible areas at requested observation frequency, independent from local interests as well as from external “handicaps” like cloud covers.

Both the Indonesian and Ghanaian pilot projects have shown the invaluable benefits and efficiency of the TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X space-borne radar missions in the field of tropical forest monitoring for REDD+. The use of these highly accurate technologies has been proven in the field and won the recognition of local authorities and project partners. The developed services

will help develop innovative approaches and methods for national MRV implementation. Additionally, they have led to successful capacity building campaigns in both countries.

[TerraSAR-X support to DeforestAction in Borneo](#)

Students monitored rainforests using Earthwatchers (geospatial crowd-sourced web-monitoring tool) and Earth Observation to provide the intelligence required to halt illegal deforestation. In the presented pilot of Earthwatchers concept near real-time access to EO data was secured through TerraSAR-X ortho-rectified imagery and automatically generated change information. The overall service provides a new approach to education by involving users directly in the conservation effort with direct access to real data. Knowledge and results are shared by collaborating in a social media environment.

[VIGISAT: CLS keeps a close watch on the ocean](#)

[WorldView Global Alliance expanded product offering](#)

WorldView Global Alliance launches expanded product offering at User Conference

Earthzine.org, an IEEE-sponsored online scientific journal, is soliciting articles of 800 to 3,000 words for its fourth 2013 quarterly theme, "Earth Observations on Health Prediction."

[China Opens Earth Observation Imagery to APSCO Members](#)

(05 July 2013, Written by Matt Ball) Today, China signed an agreement to provide earth observation satellite data to members of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO). The China National space Administration (CNSA) and APSCO signed a memorandum of understanding at a meeting in Beijing to provide the data for use in natural disaster reduction and relief.

[Climate Research and Earth Observations from Space: Climate Information for decision making](#)

13-17 October 2014, Darmstadt, Germany

[Copernicus Observer](#)

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[DigitalGlobe and Esri to Provide Premium Services to ArcGIS Online Users](#)

In conjunction with Esri, we are pleased to announce that ArcGIS Online users will now have access to DigitalGlobe's Premium Services. Revealed today at the

plenary address during the Esri User Conference (#EsriUC), the new offering brings expanded geospatial products and solutions to select users of ArcGIS Online on a subscription basis.

[Earth's Northern Biomass Mapped And Measured](#)

(26 June 2013) The biomass of the northern hemisphere's forests has been mapped with greater precision than ever before thanks to satellites, improving our understanding of the carbon cycle and our prediction of Earth's future climate.

[ESA's Largest Scientific Event Of The Year](#)

(10 June 2013) Organised and hosted by ESA with the support of the UK Space Agency, the Living Planet Symposium on 9–13 September in Edinburgh, UK brings together scientists and users to present their latest findings on Earth's environment and climate derived from satellite data.

[Eye in the sky: Earth observation in aid of development](#)

Data gathered from the vantage point of space provide critical information to help understand how the Earth works, how its regions undergo complex changes, and what policy-makers can do to mitigate them. Earth observation satellites have been used for years to gather such data, which is then used by agencies and institutions involved in development, aid and relief support.

Geodata for Disaster Protection

Essen/Karlsruhe – The cooperation between the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Centre for Satellite Based Crisis Information (ZKI) at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) indicates the important role that geodata plays in preventing and tackling natural disasters. The cooperation aims to provide emergency rescue crews with up-to-date satellite-based maps.

Improved Flood Warnings on ice-bound rivers

Each year, the formation and break up of river-ice around the world can cause extensive damage due to flooding. In the town of Badger, situated in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada, in 2003, the ice built up to such an extent that severe flooding caused many millions \$ damage to homes and property. Since then, the use of satellite radar imagery (Radarsat 1& 2, Envisat and in future Sentinel 1) has led to improved monitoring of the ice build-up and consequently flood warnings are improved allowing citizens to move and protect their property. The success in Badger has led to this technique being used for other rivers in Canada, USA and in Russia.

Furthermore, the products developed to support the improved flood warnings are now also used by emergency services for planning of responses, by the operators of hydro-electric projects to improve resource management and by engineers for design work.

As a further benefit, the sustained observations are available to look at longer term effects and particularly

the impact of climate change as well as being available for research and development into flood relief and other local planning schemes.

The Water Resources Management Division of the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of the Environment and Conservation is the provincial authority responsible for providing flood warnings based on the information derived from the satellite data and their model. They also make the ice products available for use by others.

[Jason 1 Ocean Satellite Shuts Down](#)

(June-SatelliteToday). After 11 and a half years tracking sea levels, NASA's satellite Jason 1 has ended its useful life, the agency announced. The satellite was decommissioned this week after its last remaining transmitter failed.

[MDA provides high resolution Radarsat-2 flood maps of Calgary flooding](#)

28 June 2013) MDA's Information Systems group is making available a series of Radarsat-2 flood maps to any local, provincial, or federal agency or non-profit organization that is involved in responding to the recent flooding in Alberta.

[NASA's fleet of Earth observation satellites](#)

(July 2013) U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Earth Observatory (NASA's Earth Observatory) today announced a model diagram,

showing the launch of its Earth observation satellites over the years.

[Nature journal: Choose satellites to monitor deforestation](#)

More than one billion people are dependent on forests for their livelihood and forests play a vital role in regulating our climate. Forests are under threat from degradation caused by expanding agriculture and illegal logging, which costs governments \$10 billion a year in lost revenues. Protecting forests is a global priority and the subject of the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP-19).

[NOAA to Integrate Independent Observers](#)

(03July2013) By PHILIP A. JANQUART , WASHINGTON (CN) – The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seeks comments on a proposed regulation involving integrating regional information entities into a federal marine monitoring system.

[open-source rasdaman software](#)

rasdaman GmbH is world technology leader in Big Data Analytics on Earth Science data.

[Scientists join forces to push Britain forward in new space race](#)

Experts in satellite monitoring of the Earth's climate and

ecosystem are to pool their talent to observe changes on the planet.

Scientists take to the sky to map Leicester's air quality

Physicists at the University of Leicester to map city's air quality using plane-mounted spectrometer to track pollutant levels

Space Technology Could Enable the Remote Detection of Dangerous Chemicals and Explosives

The recent terrorist incidents at the Boston marathon in the US have highlighted once again the real danger to society from chemical attacks and explosive devices in urban settings. The detection of chemicals in the air by remote means is of great importance not only to security agencies globally. In addition, there are also industrial and environmental applications for reliable remote sensing technologies.

The Group on Earth Observations Transitions to Greater Outreach

Interview by By Matt Ball for Sensors&Systems. The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is working to build the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) by coordinating collaborative capacity across Member nations. Sensors & Systems (S&S) editor Matt Ball spoke with Barbara J. Ryan, GEO secretariat director, at the recent Geospatial World Forum in Rotterdam. The conversation covered the mission and outlook for the

group, as well as a new directive for broader outreach to the public and the private sector.

[\[UN SPIDER\] Updates June 2013](#)

source UN-SPIDER team

Programmes

[DLR Delivers Satellite Images For Indian Flood Assistance](#)

(24 June 2013) Following severe flooding in northern India and Nepal, the Indian government activated the 'International Charter Space and Major Disasters' on 19 June 2013 at 10:30.

[ENTERPRISE and INDUSTRY DG organigram](#)

New organigramme for DG Enterprise

[ESAs Earth Satellites are stars](#)

The first three Earth Explorer satellites have surpassed their original objectives, demonstrating the versatility of these collaborative missions.

[EUMETSAT signs cooperation agreements on Earth observation and support to the MESA capacity building project](#)

(Friday, 05 July 2013)EUMETSAT and the African Union

have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on Earth observation as well as the implementing arrangement for Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) project, funded by the European Development Fund (EDF).

[Green light for GMES Copernicus](#)

(4 July 2013) Europe's ambitious global environmental monitoring programme will now be able to move into operation thanks to the European Parliament's approval of the multiannual financial framework budget for 2014–20.

[Information on the Copernicus Masters - The European Earth Monitoring Competition](#)

the European Earth Monitoring Competition 2013 is now open for submissions – with further industry leaders as partners and a prize pool worth well over EUR 350,000.

[Japan to launch satellites to monitor oceans](#)

Japan plans to launch satellites to monitor the world's oceans, a report said Sunday, as Chinese government ships sailed in waters around islands controlled by Tokyo and claimed by Beijing.

[Kazakhstan's Space Program Gets another Assist from Surrey](#)

(By Peter B. de Selding | Jul. 1, 2013, SpaceNews) PARIS

— British small-satellite manufacturer Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. (SSTL), furthering its involvement in Kazakhstan's nascent space program, on July 1 said it would provide an Earth observation satellite and satellite-platform technologies for future spacecraft following a contract with Ghalam LLP of Kazakhstan. Ghalam is a joint venture of Kazakhstan Garysh Sapary (KGS) and EADS Astrium of Europe, which owns SSTL.

[Long-running Jason-1 ocean satellite takes final bow](#)

(3 July 2013) The curtain has come down on a superstar of the satellite oceanography world that played the "Great Blue Way" of the world's ocean for 11-1/2 years. The successful joint NASA and Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) Jason-1 ocean altimetry satellite was decommissioned this week following the loss of its last remaining transmitter.

[Satellites Provide Tools to Address Climate Change](#)

[Satellite TODAY 06-28-13] As global climate change continues to spark international concern, satellite technology is providing experts with additional tools to better analyze and combat its effects.

[Space agency boosts earth observation, launches new satellite image mosaic of South Africa](#)

The South African National Space Agency (Sansa) has increased its earth observation (EO) budget this year to

R70-million. "This is a 13% increase on last year's expenditure," reports Sansa CEO Dr Sandile Malinga. "The biggest [part of this] spend goes to data acquisition – about R30-million, for imagery from [French EO satellite] Spot and [US EO satellite] Landsat and other global satellites and then to improve our systems and turnaround times, so as to improve our service to our customers."

Events

Events Summer 2013

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