



Editorial

I have recently been reading *The Black Swan* by Nassim Taleb a book that many of you might know. It provides a fascinating insight into how we are incapable of expecting the unexpected. To explain this seemingly obvious statement, Taleb explains how we are conditioned in our thinking to only look for signs that confirm what we already believe. We should really be looking for signs that confirm the contrary ie if we believe that all swans are white, seeing one more white swan only reconfirms our belief and it is only by looking for non-white swans and not finding any can we ultimately prove it is true.

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Summary

Issue 22 Summer 2010

▶ EARSC Activities

[EARSC AGM 2010](#)

22 June 2010, Brussels

[EARSC Evolution & eoVox-2 Status](#)

EARSC members will recall the successful eoVox-1 study conducted in 2006 by EARSC, with ESA support (Several of the outputs of that study helped to define the EARSC evolution strategy for 2007 and beyond)

[EARSC Membership: Strengthening the voice of Geo-information Industry](#)

EARSC is a non-profit-making organisation created in 1989. The mission of EARSC is 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, which is openly accessible to all members.

[EARSC welcomes two new members!](#)

Following a Membership Campaign, the EARSC Board is glad to welcome two New Companies in our Association: ANSUR and IABG

[How to publish your articles/events at EOMag?](#)

Content for publication is welcomed and can be submitted at any time for consideration. Let us help you bring your article to the world.

▶ Interview

[Interview with TOMAZ LOVRENCIC, Director European Union Satellite Centre](#)

In the next issue of EOMAG, EARSC had the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Lovrencic, Director EUSC some topics relevant to European Earth Observation programme (GMES) and its impacts to the geo-information service provider sector.

▶ Industry Profile

[Critical Software - Dependable Technologies for Critical Systems](#)

Working in the Space and Earth Observation fields, Critical Software is, and has been, involved in several R&D and operational projects with the aim to deliver innovative Earth Observation products and services to specific user communities. The company has a proven experience in delivering highly dependable mission oriented critical solutions, services and technologies, and has established itself as a reliable and proactive partner for customers, such as ESA, NASA, JAXA, EADS Astrium, Thales Alenia Space, DNV, ScySis, Vega among many others.

▶ Member News

[Aratos Technologies SA](#)

Aratos Technologies News

[Chelys news](#)

EOSnap is a web portal dedicated to Earth Observation

[DMCii launches global forest monitoring service for REDD+](#)

At the 18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Edinburgh, a new service specifically tailored to help in the fight to conserve global forests was launched. DMCii's Global Forest Monitoring service uses satellite imagery to produce easily-understood maps of forest cover change. Uniquely, the service's wide-area forest surveys can be updated annually, monthly – or more often still for areas judged most at risk – delivering the timely data necessary for operational management.

[Euroconsult brings market intelligence to Earth observation business](#)

Euroconsult, the international consulting and analyst firm specializing in the satellite sector continues to reinforce its Earth observation business. The company provides market studies and consulting, and organizes events.

[GAF News](#)

GAF news

[GeoVille supports food security assessments](#)

As part of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security Services Element, the [Global Monitoring for Food Security](#) project of ESA aims to provide Earth Observation based services in order to assist stakeholders, nations and international organizations to better implement their policies towards sustainable development.

[GIM to provide Earth Observation services to UNESCO for management of World Heritage sites.](#)

GIM recently delivered the Calakmul 4D GIS "Information Management System" for the conservation authorities of the Biosphere Reserve and Archaeological Urban Centre of Calakmul (Mexico). This online system allows Mexican

of Galapagos (Mexico). This online system allows Mexican managers of Natural and Cultural Heritage to store, share, visualise and create interaction between their data, in order to coordinate various actions of conservation, management, planning, monitoring and research undertaken in the area.

[GMV signs the eCall Memorandum of Understanding](#)

On 4 May and together with other companies developing transport improvement solutions and five European governments (Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Malta and Romania) GMV signed a “non-binding agreement” for implementing Europe’s eCall in-car emergency system.

[Kongsberg Spacetec News](#)

News from May to June 2010

[Logica to ensure the integrity of ESA’s Earth observation data systems in new 7.5 million Euros contract](#)

Logica to lead the operational integration, verification and validation (OIVV) of the European Space Agency’s Earth observation data systems.

[PCI Geomatics Press Releases](#)

News from May to June

[RapidEye news](#)

News from May-July

[Trimble Acquires Definiens’ Earth Sciences Business to Expand its GeoSpatial Portfolio](#)

(June2010)– Trimble (NASDAQ: TRMB) and Definiens, a Germany-based company specializing in image analysis solutions, today announced Trimble’s acquisition of Definiens’ Earth Sciences business assets and licensing of its software technology platform in an all-cash transaction. Financial terms were not disclosed.

[VITO: Metop-AVHRR 10-daily composites \(MA10\)](#)

(MAY2010) It is with great pleasure that we announce you a new product in the world of low resolution Earth observation data, the Metop-AVHRR 10-daily composites (MA10).

[▶ Earth Observation News](#)

[Airborne Sensing Corporation Upgrades Its UltraCamD to an UltraCamX](#)

The Airborne Sensing Corporation (ASC) has contracted with Vexcel Imaging GmbH, a Microsoft® company, to upgrade its UltraCamD to an UltraCamX large-format digital aerial camera system. ASC has used Vexcel Imaging products since June 2005 when the company first acquired an UltraCam, and then later purchased an UltraCamX in 2008.

[CryoSat-2 exceeding expectations](#)

Participants at the Living Planet Symposium have been hearing about ESA’s most recently launched mission, CryoSat-2. In orbit for almost three months, the satellite is in excellent health with scientists very encouraged by the

first ice-thickness data presented at the symposium.

[DigitalGlobe Selects Internap to Deliver Global, High-Performance Access to Geospatial Imagery](#)

Internap's Performance IP™ premier connectivity and Managed Hosting ensure real-time access to DigitalGlobe's earth imagery

[ERDAS: Earth to Business News 6/10](#)

(28 June 2010) ERDAS: Earth to Business News 6/10. Next Edition of Earth to Business: The ERDAS E-Newsletter! To provide you with useful information, including significant ERDAS announcements, customer success stories and feature tips in this monthly e-newsletter.

[EU environment publications](#)

Publications

[EUMETSAT reaffirms its role in GMES at its 70th Council meeting](#)

The 70th Council meeting of EUMETSAT (the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites) took place on 21-22 June 2010 in Rome, Italy.

[European Space Agency partners with Interoute to ensure secure and effective distribution for its critical satellite data](#)

(May2010) Interoute will provide a secure private IPVPN connecting 13 European Space Agency sites with bandwidth from 1.5Mbps to 500Mbps

[From V1: How will the geospatial data market evolve over the next ten years?](#)

The ability to collect, distribute and access geospatial data continues to improve in terms of speed and precision of collection, timeliness of delivery, and affordability.

[Fugro awarded large 3D contract in West Africa](#)

Fugro-Geoteam AS has signed a contract with TGS-NOPEC Geophysical Company ASA to acquire 3D survey(s) in West Africa.

[GAO Report on National Strategy for Earth Observation](#)

Environmental Satellites: Strategy Needed to Sustain Critical Climate and Space Weather Measurements. GAO-10-456 April 27, 2010

[GMES Space Component Data Access](#)

The GMES Space Component (GSC) Data Access system is the interface for accessing the Earth Observation products from the GMES Space Component.

[GOCE giving new insights into Earth's gravity](#)

The first global gravity model based on GOCE satellite data has been presented at ESA's Living Planet Symposium. ESA launched GOCE in March 2009 to map

Symposium. ESA launched GOCE in March 2009 to map Earth's gravity with unprecedented accuracy and resolution.

[Identifying And Quantifying The Benefits Of GEOSS](#)

GEOSS, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, is envisioned to be a global public infrastructure that generates comprehensive, near-real-time environmental data, information and analyses for a wide range of users. The general assumption regarding GEOSS is that the benefits to society by far outweigh the costs.

[Indian rocket successfully hauls five satellites into orbit](#)

India sent an all-purpose Earth observation satellite into orbit early Monday, replenishing the country's fleet of mapping spacecraft for resource planning and security applications.

[INSPIRE News](#)

Inspire recent News

[National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency \(NGA\) Extends Rapid Delivery of Online Geospatial-Intelligence \(RDOG\) Contract with DigitalGlobe](#)

DigitalGlobe, a global content provider of high-resolution earth imagery solutions, announced that the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) has extended its contract with DigitalGlobe to enable a "Rapid Delivery of Online Geospatial-Intelligence" (RDOG). DigitalGlobe is providing NGA with unclassified imagery-derived products and services in support of NGA's mission to develop imagery and map-based intelligence solutions for U.S. national defense, homeland security and safety of navigation.

[Now, remote sensing to help detect hidden explosives](#)

American scientists have made a major breakthrough in remote wave sensing, opening the way for detecting hidden explosives, chemical, biological agents and illegal drugs from a distance of 20 meters.

[October 2010, Space Conference:Crucial issues of the European Space policy](#)

The European Parliament will host within its Hemicycle in Brussels, on 26th and 27th October 2010, a high-level two-days Conference on the European space policy.

[OGC Seeks Comments on Moving Object Snapshot Standard](#)

Wayland, MA – The Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC®) is seeking public comment on a Geography Markup Language (GML) XML encoding for describing the characteristics of a moving object, such as a GPS enabled car. This candidate standard provides a way of describing in simple terms the motion of an object, such as a car driving through city streets or a person walking in a park.

[PlanetObserver launches a new version of its global satellite imagery database](#)

PlanetObserver, leading supplier of satellite images in

PlanetObserver, leading supplier of satellite images in natural colours, announces the launch of a new version of its global digital Earth satellite imagery dataset with a resolution of 15 meter per pixel.

[Revisit the Living Planet Symposium](#)

More than 1400 scientists and users from around the world gathered this past weeks in Bergen, Norway, for ESA's Living Planet Symposium to present their latest findings on Earth's environment and climate using data from observation satellites.

[Scientists from Europe and China review observation measures in place to help better understand the planet.](#)

With experts and scientists discussing space and continued scientific developments at a recent conference at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, the conversation had less to do with interstellar travel and distant galaxies, and more to do monitoring strategies and systems to better understand the impacts humans are having on the world.

[SMOS shines at symposium](#)

(30 June 2010) Today, a focus at ESA's Living Planet Symposium is on the innovative SMOS mission, which recently became operational. Early results are proving very encouraging with its first observations due to be released in early July.

[South Korea's First Geostationary Weather Satellite Launched Into Orbit](#)

Chollian communication, oceanographic and meteorologic satellite successfully launched

[SWIFT E-News n°11](#)

16th June 2010

[U.S. Climate Satellite Capabilities in Jeopardy](#)

(June2010) The United States is in danger of losing its ability to monitor key climate variables from satellites, according to a new Government Accountability Office report.

[World Expo 2010 in Shanghai - Satellites images monitor urban development](#)

The central theme for the World Expo in Shanghai from 1 May to 31 October 2010 will be urban development, under the banner "Better City, Better Life".

Programmes

[Agreement between ESA and EMSA furthers maritime safety](#)

ESA and the European Maritime Safety Agency have signed a further Agreement to ensure that satellite data are available to enhance maritime safety and help combat pollution from shipping.

[Consultation on the Seventh Framework Programme](#)

Consultation: Questionnaire

[DG FNTRE management plan 2010](#)

“management plan 2010” of DG ENTR of the EC

[Emits: EUROPEAN SPACE INDUSTRY: ACTIVITY FORECAST](#)

Within the execution of its functions, ESA regularly monitors and analyses the European space industry. Those studies are intended to provide information in support of ESA's industrial, procurement and programmatic policies.

[EU Grants €324 million To Boost Competitiveness And Innovation For Space Research](#)

The European Commission has initiated negotiations to sign research contracts worth EUR 324 million with 108 successful space and security research consortia.

[European Earth Observation Program Faces Big Funding Shortfall](#)

BERGEN, Norway — Europe's ambitious GMES satellite-based Earth observation program is an estimated \$600 million short of what it needs to complete development of satellites already under construction and assure the promised data continuity to users in the period from 2011 to 2014, with potential funding sources drying up with each new development in Europe's sovereign-debt crisis, European government and industry officials said.

[European Officials Embrace Open Data Policy for GMES Satellites](#)

BERGEN, Norway — The European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Parliament have endorsed the idea of free and open access to data from Europe's future generation of Sentinel Earth observation satellites, with the possible exception of imagery with a ground resolution sharper than 10 meters, European government officials said.

[EUROSPACE Facts and Figures](#)

Eurospace is pleased to announce the first release of Eurospace facts & figures 2010 survey results (with data relevant to 2009).

[GMES/GIO Regulation: outcome of the European Parliament's first reading](#)

Outcome of the European parliament's first reading (17 June) on the Proposal for a Regulation on GMES/GIO.

[▶ Events](#)

[Events Summer 2010](#)

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