

# ISPRS Sustaining Members (49)

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**Welcome to new ISPRS Sustaining Members**  
• Aero-Sensing Radarsysteme GmbH •



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## Aero-Sensing Radarsysteme GmbH

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The Aero-Sensing Radarsysteme GmbH is a private enterprise that is active worldwide in the field of radar technology. Our know-how represents the latest in international radar techniques. In particular, the application of radar interferometry permits us to accurately determine height information and to generate three-dimensional images of the Earth's surface. The use of aircraft, as well as satellite borne radar systems allows the acquisition of data during both day and night and in all weather conditions.

Our range of activities includes:

- Development, construction and delivery of radar systems
- Flights over land and water, to acquire raw radar data using our airborne interferometry synthetic aperture



radars (InSAR) known as AeS-1, AeS-2 and AeS-3; data acquisition may be configured for customer specific applications with different polarisations and frequencies, for example P-, L-, C- and/or X-band. Our AeS-1, AeS-2 and AeS-3 sensors, which are patent protected, have worldwide the best resolution. Apart from this

one have to know that a difference of only 1 m in resolution opens a tremendous additional

range of applications

Our prime service starts with the generation of fully geocoded synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images and fully geocoded digital elevation models (DEM) and is completed by processing further value added products out of SAR images and DEMs for example to topographical or thematic maps.

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## News from Sustaining Members

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### EarthWatch

#### EarthWatch Establishes Charter Club Program for the DigitalGlobe® User Group

EarthWatch Incorporated announced today that they are offering membership into its DigitalGlobe Charter Club to the first 70 North American Commercial Customers. In anticipation of the October 2001 launch of the QuickBird satellite, providing the world's highest resolution commercial imagery from space, EarthWatch has formed the DigitalGlobe Charter Club. The DigitalGlobe Charter Club provides a limited number of organisations to be the first to receive and use EarthWatch's 70-centimeter panchromatic and 2.8-meter multispectral imagery orthoproducts, and provide valuable input into the development of DigitalGlobe products and services. Customers can purchase between 750 and 10,000 square kilometres of Orthorectified imagery from now through October 18, 2001 - The scheduled launch date of QuickBird.

The DigitalGlobe Charter Club offers customers:

- Limited-time value pricing opportunities
  - Guaranteed imagery delivery time frame
  - Enhanced commercial tasking priority for Charter Club orders
  - Input into the development of DigitalGlobe products and services
  - A chance for a trip for two to the launch of the QuickBird satellite
  - Charter membership in the DigitalGlobe User Group
- Organisations that become Charter Club Members prior to September 14, 2001 will also be entered in a drawing for a trip for two to the launch of QuickBird from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Interested organisations should visit [www.digitalglobe.com](http://www.digitalglobe.com) for more details on the DigitalGlobe Charter Club, but should act fast as this program is offered until either 70 customers take advantage of the program or October 18, 2001, whichever comes first. [www.digitalglobe.com](http://www.digitalglobe.com)  
(Source: EarthWatch Incorporated)

## LH Systems

### LH Systems Launches GDM100, a Geospatial Data Archive and Management Solution

LH Systems, LLC announced the development of its latest, in-house product, the GDM100 GeoVault Data Manager. A complete turnkey solution for the archive, management and distribution of large quantities of imagery and geospatial data, the GDM100 hardware and software system



Screen shot of LH Systems' GDM100 prototype login page. Access to data is protected by password; different users can be assigned different access levels.

increases user productivity by allowing customised processes to occur during archival or retrieval events. The GDM100 provides secure and redundant long term cataloguing and archiving of geospatial information and is designed to protect and serve data within a work group, intranet, or Internet setting.

The announcement of the GDM100 follows on the heels of successful test flights of the company's new ADS40 Airborne Digital Sensor. The ADS40's state-of-the-art technology simultaneously captures all spectral information, enabling aerial photography and photogrammetry customers to work in a completely digital environment from flight planning to the creation of geospatial end products. "Our business includes digital sensors and, increasingly, our customers rely on managing digital data," stated Scott Miller, Vice-President, Development, LH Systems. "Demand for improved data management when dealing with large amounts of digital imagery and other geospatial data has driven LH Systems to introduce the GDM100."

Leveraging off-the-shelf software and hardware (tape libraries, Windows® 2000 server, disk RAID) from the industry's largest vendors, the GDM100 uses a completely open architecture. Cataloguing, data management, query, and analysis are provided through Oracle database management software. The product includes off-line tape cataloguing, near-line high-speed tape libraries, on-line disk caching, and data transmission via ftp.

[www.lh-systems.com](http://www.lh-systems.com)  
(Source: LH Systems, LLC)

## OGCE Ltd

### OGCE to Advise North Rhine Westphalia Interoperability Project

The Open GIS Consortium's (OGC) European subsidiary, the Open GIS Consortium (Europe) Ltd. (OGCE) and the Landesvermessungsamt (Surveying and Mapping Agency) of the German State of North Rhine Westphalia (NRW) have agreed to collaborate on a Pilot Project that uses OpenGIS specification conformant commercial products. NRW and the City of Cologne will execute the pilot and OGCE will advise and assist as needed. This will be the first Pilot Project for which OGCE has provided interoperability planning services.

NRW is unique in Germany because data for land ownership is managed not at the state level, but by large cities and counties. The variety of software tools used across the state has provided extensive technological freedom, but has made data sharing difficult.

The goal of the project is to provide an integrated method to share and exploit spatial information acquired from distributed sources located across government sites in Cologne, and to provide feedback into the OGC Specification Program. The Pilot will involve common access and display of data from several internal GIS databases, including land ownership records, base map information from the Landesvermessungsamt itself and several other departments in the city government.

This project highlights several hallmarks of interoperability. The participating departments will not need to change their existing software, but rather extend it, to work with other software. The architecture proposed will be built in part using local expertise, assuring the development of in-country experience to grow the project further. Finally, NRW Pilot Project is a key implementation of OGC specifications in a local government setting, an important step for communities worldwide.

[www.opengis.org](http://www.opengis.org)  
(Source: OGCE)

## EarthWatch

### EarthWatch Announces Strategic Partnerships to Provide Greater Customer Flexibility

EarthWatch Incorporated and **PCI Geomatics** announce the execution of a strategic software partnership, which supports the new 'Open Systems' approach within the satellite imagery industry.

EarthWatch Incorporated and **Sensor Systems** announce the completion of a strategic software partnership, which supports the new 'Open Systems' approach within the satellite imagery industry.

EarthWatch Incorporated and **Northrop Grumman PRB Systems** announce the execution of a strategic software partnership, which supports the new 'Open Systems' approach within the satellite imagery industry. EarthWatch will license the QuickBird sensor model for incorporation into Northrop Grumman's RainDrop soft-

ware application product suite. The partnership will allow both existing and new users of RainDrop software to fully leverage the highest commercially available satellite imagery as soon as it is available later this year.

EarthWatch Incorporated and **ERDAS®**, Inc. announce the implementation of a strategic software partnership, which will provide customers with the ability to visualise, manipulate, analyse, measure, and integrate QuickBird imagery into a wide array of 2D and 3D environments. The new partnership licenses the QuickBird sensor model to ERDAS for incorporation into its geographic imaging software suite.

EarthWatch recently confirmed its plan to launch the QuickBird 2 satellite in October 2001. QuickBird 2 will offer 61-centimetre panchromatic and 2.5-metre multi-spectral imagery.

[www.digitalglobe.com](http://www.digitalglobe.com)  
(Source: *EarthWatch Incorporated*)

## Applanix

### Applanix Recognised in the PROFIT Next 100

PROFIT magazine has ranked Applanix as the 150th fastest growing company in Canada for 2001, based on impressive 5-year revenue growth of 510%. Dr. Blake Reid, Applanix's President and CEO had this comment: "I believe our placement on PROFIT magazine's list for the second year in a row is a direct result of our commitment to deliver exceptional value to our customers. We are proud of this accomplishment, and will strive to be on PROFIT's list again next year."

### About Applanix Corporation

Applanix Corporation develops, manufactures, sells and supports precision products that accurately and robustly

measure the position and orientation of vehicles in dynamic environments. Applanix Position and Orientation Systems (POS) are used in a variety of applications including road profiling, aerial survey and mapping, railroad track maintenance and seafloor mapping. Applanix strives to support customers around the world with exceptional service – anywhere, at anytime.

Established in 1991, Applanix Corporation has enjoyed continuous, profitable growth. It has been named one of the fastest growing Canadian companies by PROFIT magazine, and has been recognised as a leading exporter by FedEx Canada and by the Government of Ontario (as a recipient of a Global Traders award).

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[www.applanix.com](http://www.applanix.com)

(Source: *Applanix Corporation*)

## Open GIS Consortium Inc.

### Shell Joins OGC

Shell International Exploration and Production Inc. (TX, USA) has joined OGC as a Principal Member. Approximately 80 per cent of all data transactions in the upstream oil and gas business involve the location component of such data. This makes geospatial data the most

frequently used data category in this business sector. Shell views software integration as a means to increase effectiveness and efficiency of business processes. Though the company develops custom software for certain critical applications, it would prefer to use commercially available 'plug-and-play' software components for functionality that is routine for its business, such as the handling of geospatial data.

[www.opengis.org](http://www.opengis.org)  
(Source: *Open GIS Consortium, Inc.*)

## Leica

### Leica Geosystems Launches GIS Initiative

Leica Geosystems (Switzerland) has signed two acquisition agreements. The company is to acquire 100 per cent of the shares of ERDAS, Inc. Simultaneously, Leica Geosystems will acquire the remaining 50 per cent of the outstanding shares of LH Systems from its Joint Venture partner, BAE Systems. ERDAS and LH Systems, both headquartered in the United States, will form the core of Leica Geosystems' new GIS and Mapping Division and provide a platform for growth in the GIS and remote sensing market segments. With the completion of these two acquisitions, Leica Geosystems will be able to provide a com-

prehensive spectrum of technologies and solutions for integrated spatial measurement, remote sensing and mapping with Geographic Information Systems world-wide. Leica Geosystems will acquire ERDAS Inc. for approximately US\$ 30 million in cash, plus registered shares of the company. The acquisition of LH Systems will be concluded at a price of US\$ 15 million and will be an all-cash transaction.

In order to fully realise the synergies between these two companies, Leica Geosystems plans to integrate ERDAS and LH Systems as part of the Leica Geosystems family under the umbrella of the new GIS and Mapping Division whilst their individual identity and market presence are preserved.

[www.leica-geosystems.com](http://www.leica-geosystems.com)

(Source: Leica Geosystems AG)

## Applanix

### Applanix Grows Team to Address Growing European Customer Base

As of July, 2001, Peter Göllner has joined the Applanix team as European Sales Manager. Peter will manage full marketing, sales and support capabilities across Europe for our customers - both directly and through approved Agencies. "Applanix has been steadily penetrating the European market for several years, and we now require a

strong European presence to address this customer base. I am very pleased to have Peter Göllner lead European sales and support operations." commented Dieter Zeuner, Applanix's Director of Sales.

Mr. Göllner comes to Applanix with over 25 years experience in the GIS and GPS industries. Over the many years of his professional career he has been active in the field of Surveying Instrumentation and Systems, and in the field of Airborne Survey and Photogrammetry. Most recently he was Sales Director for Trimble Navigation Europe Ltd.

[www.applanix.com](http://www.applanix.com)

(Source: Applanix Corporation)

## Other Business News

### DEFiNiENS

#### DEFiNiENS Imaging GmbH Announces First International eCognition Workshop

DEFiNiENS Imaging GmbH announced their first international eCognition workshop to be held in Munich (1 – 2 October 2001), during the famous Bavarian 'Oktoberfest' event

The workshop will provide the opportunity to all interested business and development partners, industry leaders and entities to meet closely the eCognition team and be exposed directly to the new promising world of object oriented image analysis.

The workshop will last 2 days and it will be opened by

Prof. Dr. Gerd Binnig, Nobel-Laureate in Physics in 1986. Current and future development, eCognition V.2.0 presentation, training as well as a discussion fora will be included in the agenda of the workshop.

eCognition is a cost-effective, intelligent, revolutionary technology and the first commercially available product for object-oriented image analysis. It is used to classify and extract information from high resolution earth observation data either optical or radar.

The DEFiNiENS Imaging GmbH was established in 2001 and is a 100% subsidiary of the DEFiNiENS AG. Both companies are based in Munich, Germany.

For information, please contact Ms. Birgit Aigner, Event Co-ordinator, at +49 8751 842 856, E-mail: [pr@definiens.com](mailto:pr@definiens.com) or visit [www.definiens.imaging.com](http://www.definiens.imaging.com)

## DEFiNiENS

### DEFiNiENS Moving to New Headquarters

DEFiNiENS has moved to new, larger headquarters within Munich in the end of May 2001.

According to Thomas Grevel, CEO of DEFiNiENS, the change to the new headquarter reflects the fast expansion and the future direction of DEFiNiENS. It embraces a strong move towards providing future technologies like the innovative eCognition system to the growing Geomatics industry.

DEFiNiENS was founded by the Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Gerd Binnig. DEFiNiENS AG develops and markets future technologies – based on the ideas of Prof. Binnig - for Image Analysis, Knowledge Management and Traffic Management. DEFiNiENS Imaging GmbH, founded in 2001

(a 100% subsidiary of DEFiNiENS AG), markets and supports the eCognition technology, the first commercially available product for object based and multi-scale image analysis. eCognition can be used to any kind of Earth Observation data and provides endless ability to segment and classify cost-effectively large image volumes.

The new address is:

DEFiNiENS  
Trappentreustrasse 1  
80339 Munich  
Germany

Phone, fax and email will remain the same:

Tel.: +49-89-2311800

Fax: +49-89-23118090

E-mail: [info@definiens.com](mailto:info@definiens.com)

For more information, please contact [info@definiens.com](mailto:info@definiens.com), or [www.definiens.com](http://www.definiens.com).

## INPHO

### INPHO Terminates MATCH-AT Contract with Z/I Imaging

INPHO GmbH (Germany) has cancelled the agreement concerning the distribution of INPHO's MATCH-AT

product by Z/I Imaging Corporation (AL, USA). MATCH-AT is software for automatic digital aerial triangulation. It fulfils all requirements of modern aerial triangulation, such as GPS/INS handling, processing of very large blocks, and graphical analysis of the results. INPHO continues to develop new features, and offers full technical support to all users of MATCH-AT.

(Source: INPHO)

## Thales

### Thales to Buy Magellan and NavSol

Thales (formerly DSNP) (France) and Orbital Sciences Corporation (USA) have reached an agreement whereby Thales will acquire all of Orbital Sciences' satellite navigation and positioning businesses for approximately US\$70 million. Two Orbital Sciences subsidiaries are involved in the transaction: GPS-equipment supplier Magellan and NavSol, which is in charge of the Hertz car rental group's satellite-based car navigation service. The

two subsidiaries generated combined revenues of US\$ 114 million in 2000. Thales has such a strong European position in GPS equipment through its subsidiary Thales Navigation that in May 2000 it acquired French company MLR, specialists in GPS equipment for merchant marine vessels and recreational craft. As Magellan covers the North American market, complementary product portfolios and sales networks will drive sales growth on a global basis. In addition, R&D synergies will make it possible to expand the product range and develop growth in GPS-related services.

(Source: Thales)

## Earth Resource Mapper

### ER Mapper Adds Satellite OrthoWarp ER Module

Earth Resource Mapping (UK) and Inpho Technology Oy (Finland) have announced the latest release of OrthoWarp ER, an add-on module for ER Mapper for orthorectification of satellite imagery.

With OrthoWarp ER, users can orthorectify all types of satellite data. IKONOS, IRS, Landsat and Spot data are natively supported and camera models can be added to support future satellite data. The new software includes many automated tools for orientation, measurement and error correction.

[www.ermapper.com](http://www.ermapper.com)

(Source: Earth Resource Mapping)