

TAILORING SPACE SOLUTIONS FOR OPERATIONAL EARTH OBSERVATION USAGE

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ABSTRACT

The volume and diversity of institutional and commercial downstream applications using Earth Observation satellites (cartography, land cover, agriculture, natural and industrial risks management, humanitarian aid...) go increasing significantly. This is a consequence of continuous efforts of major EO data operators and added value services companies, of full exploitation of new missions as Spot5, and of the major forthcoming initiatives GMES for Europe and GEOSS at worldwide scale. Existing and new applications are being consolidated, hence serving more and more users, and delivering major societal stakes services such as citizen security, Earth environment monitoring, integrated farming, aid to development...

Ensuring the continuity and the required level of performances of the Earth observation satellite data sources is now the cornerstone for the sustainability of these applications. In parallel of the applications blooming, the challenge is to prepare the follow-up of the currently most used missions as the SPOT family, ENVISAT...

GMES, in complement of national and third-party missions, will provide the European response for the institutional applications. For commercial applications, the trend is either towards solutions combining both institutional and commercial utilisations or towards dedicated solutions. In this case the possession cost of the satellite capacity has to be balanced by the market incomes.

For both types of applications, flexibility in terms of deployment capability becomes important: the ability to deliver and to maintain different performances does constitute a real plus. For the commercial part it is necessary to provide the EO satellite exploitation operator with a high level of flexibility in setting-up its capacity and give them the possibility to align it on the market revenues. Offering a range of solutions scaleable in terms of missions and performances, which can be incrementally deployed, will constitute a real progress.

EADS Astrium, thanks to its institutional and export achievements has developed a range of satellite products and solutions enabling to propose scaleable EO satellites configurations, in terms of missions and operational performances.

EADS Astrium will be pleased to be given the opportunity to give an oral presentation during the ISPRS Symposium of its achievements in terms of products (eg, new spacecraft generation Astrosat, new instrument), in terms of new satellite and sensors technologies and solutions to better serve the downstream users for institutional (GMES, CAP, ...) applications and for export ones (eg, Thailand, Algeria).