

PressRelease

TerraSAR-X Radar Satellite Data for Europe's GMES Services

- ESA awards 2.4 Mio Euro Contract to Infoterra GmbH
- Interfaces for Direct Ordering of Data for GMES Services to be installed

Friedrichshafen, August 19, 2009 – A framework contract covering the acquisition and provision of TerraSAR-X radar satellite data worth 2.2 Mio Euro, as well as the implementation of a direct ordering tool for this data, worth another 200,000 Euro, has been awarded to Infoterra GmbH. The respective agreement has now been signed by the Director of Earth Observation at the European Space Agency (ESA), Dr. Volker Liebig, and Joerg Herrmann, Managing Director of Infoterra GmbH. Infoterra, an Astrium subsidiary, holds the exclusive commercial marketing rights for TerraSAR-X data and services.

Until September 2010, service providers working in the GMES (Global Monitoring of Environment and Security) Programme, a joint initiative of ESA with the European Commission (EC), can request TerraSAR-X data from the Agency. As an add-on to the data delivery contract, Infoterra will enable ESA to place these orders directly. The necessary adaptations of the TerraSAR-X Ground Segment will be implemented within the next months.

TerraSAR-X, now being a so-called GMES Contributing Mission, is expected to become a key data source particularly for activities addressing emergency / security related issues, reliable monitoring needs, and land use / land cover status and change, both in Europe and beyond. Its unique reliability and high accuracy make it an ideal data source within ESA's multi-mission approach.

In Phase 1 of its GMES Space Component Data Access (GSC-DA) Programme, the European Commission, through ESA, invests a total of 45 Mio Euro in order to supply Earth observation data from fourteen commercial satellite missions to the service providers of a total of five FP7 Services: three GMES Fast Track Services (geoland2, SAFER and MyOcean); and two Pilot Service Projects (GMOSAIC and MACC-Monitoring Atmospheric Composition and Climate), as well as the Urban Atlas Project sponsored by DG-Regio.

In a second step, the agency plans to install a harmonized data ordering interface that will enable ESA's experts to directly assess and access the acquisition capabilities of all civil Earth observation missions involved. With this Phase 2 starting in 2010, Infoterra expects not only a continuation of the data provision agreement, but some fundamental technical work to design the necessary interfaces between the ordering processes of the TerraSAR-X Ground Segment and the envisaged central ESA tool.

About Infoterra

Infoterra GmbH, Germany, holds the exclusive commercial exploitation rights for the new German radar satellite TerraSAR-X, enabling the company to provide weather-independent, high-resolution, new-quality radar data as well as reliable data access services.

A variety of geo-information products and services, based on both radar data and remote sensing data acquired by other spaceborne sensors, complete the portfolio: Infoterra provides reliable and timely knowledge to customers in versatile fields of application around the globe.

Infoterra has been a leader in development and validation of European GMES services for several years now. The company has established a strong expertise in geo-information services for land monitoring, water quality assessment, and spatial planning applications. Within GMES, Infoterra GmbH coordinates major development and implementation projects.

The company is headquartered in Friedrichshafen and operates a production centre in Potsdam, currently employing an overall workforce of more than 140 employees.

Infoterra GmbH is a wholly owned subsidiary of Astrium, Europe's leading space systems and services specialist. Infoterra GmbH is part of the Spot Infoterra Group, the Earth Observation Division of Astrium Services.

About TerraSAR-X

The TerraSAR-X Earth observation satellite is a joint venture being carried out under a public-private-partnership between the German Aerospace Center DLR and EADS Astrium GmbH. At DLR, a team of four institutes is responsible for implementing the mission in collaboration with the space agency.

Astrium GmbH developed, built and launched the satellite; the exclusive commercial exploitation rights are held by the geo-information service provider Infoterra GmbH. TerraSAR-X was launched on June 15th, 2007 and has been in operational service since January 2008.

For a collection of TerraSAR-X imagery, please visit:

www.infoterra.de/image-gallery/images.html

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