



PRINCIPLES GOVERNING EO DATA ACCESS UNDER THE EC/ESA DELEGATION AGREEMENT

The main objective of GMES as a whole is to provide value-added services to the GMES user community, including pre-processed EO data as they are the first level of this value added service, and to share them amongst a large community of users.

To date the use of EO data and derived products is very often limited by the availability and data access restriction (in particular IPR conditions for HR/VHR images). To overcome these problems, it is crucial to set up appropriate data access conditions and Data Policies in line with these objectives

Thus, the data access conditions shall not only ensure access to the GMES services, but also foster the user uptake of EO data acquired through GMES and of products supplied by the Core Services, strengthening Earth observation markets in Europe (and especially the downstream sector), with a view to enabling growth and job creation. They should also secure the continuous provision of EO data to operational services at the lowest possible cost, contributing to the sustainability of the provision of GMES data and information.

The approach to EO data procurement, whilst taking into account the achievements of the Grant Agreement, would then be built on the following basis:

- While the existing Data Access Grant offered the equivalent of a bespoke suit to a very limited number of beneficiaries, it is hereby proposed to move to the concept of a “Data Warehouse” that will hold standardised data sets for a very high number of beneficiaries. While this may not satisfy all existing stakeholders, it will satisfy an x-fold higher number of stakeholders than in the past and create a stable baseline for procurement and will remove the uncertainties currently observed.
- Consistent with the idea of a “Data Warehouse”, the new scheme will be open to a large user community, by defining a simple licensing scheme open to public stakeholders while preserving the commercial interests of the EO data providers. This is the main measure to foster user uptake. A limited number of user categories will be defined, including as a first step, EC bodies, including their agencies (EMSA, EEA, EUSC...) and all entities that the EC may contract with a view to implementing the GMES services, including Member States authorities.

- The limited funding should also favour a scheme where the use of public assets in GMES (the Sentinels – when becoming available -, other ESA missions, Eumetsat missions, national missions) is maximised.

The specifications of the data to be served through this Data Warehouse will aim at widening, as far as possible, user access along three major principles:

- (1) extension of licences to meet the needs of a wider range of user activities – beyond existing FP7 projects – for the datasets covered by the current GSC DAP;
- (2) depending on the type of service, predefinition of CORE datasets with fixed specifications that represent the common needs of a broad user community;
- (3) Bulk agreement for ADDITIONAL datasets with flexible specifications, e.g. geographical area, under the establishment of predefined quotas.

The specifications should take account of the requirements of users at large, encompassing the FP7 projects and other GMES connected activities (e.g. operational activities at European level such as EEA, EMSA, JRC, etc. and at National level).

The approach for the procurement of the two types of datasets will be different: CORE datasets can be procured on the basis of pre-defined specifications, ADDITIONAL datasets through a quota mechanism and bulk agreements with data providers for the provision of data within a financial envelope. The list of foreseen data sets will be distributed prior to the meeting.