

# AN INNOVATIVE FORMOSAT-2 WEB SERVICE

Technologies

In response to requests from customers, Spot Image has set up a Web portal to allow them quickly and easily to keep track of FORMOSAT-2 image collection. This innovative service is ideally suited to major projects that don't require a receiving station all to themselves.

Since being launched in 2004, the FORMOSAT-2<sup>1</sup> satellite has proven its pedigree. The Taiwanese satellite, its imagery distributed by Spot Image, remains the first and only high-resolution satellite to offer a daily revisit capability. Imagery is acquired by the same instrument every day under the same viewing conditions, thereby ensuring a frequent flow of compatible data. FORMOSAT-2 doesn't cover every corner of the globe, but over the areas it can see it assures a combination of high resolution and

daily revisits unmatched by any other civil Earth-observation satellite. Today, it is a precious aid for defence and hazard management applications, as well as for mapping, agriculture, land planning and forest management. For example, in October it was the first satellite to deliver

1) Owned by Taiwan's National Space Organization (NSPO) and built by EADS-Astrium



precise data of the raging wildfires in California.

Spot Image receives FORMOSAT-2 data chiefly from the Kiruna receiving station in northern Sweden and has conceived a virtual data reception service called MyFormosat2 that offers an effective solution for its customers. With MyFormosat2, Spot Image provides an enhanced service for customers who want more freedom in acquiring satellite imagery and need large volumes of data over a precise period.

**Web portal provides more freedom**

The simple idea behind this Web portal is to allow customers to receive and select imagery as if they had their own receiving station. "Putting data on line gives customers more freedom and saves them time," explains Anne-Sophie Runavot, FORMOSAT-2 Project Leader. "We designed the portal to be as intuitive and easy to use as possible so that customers can easily acquire the data they want on their own." Programming requests remain perfectly secure and confidential.

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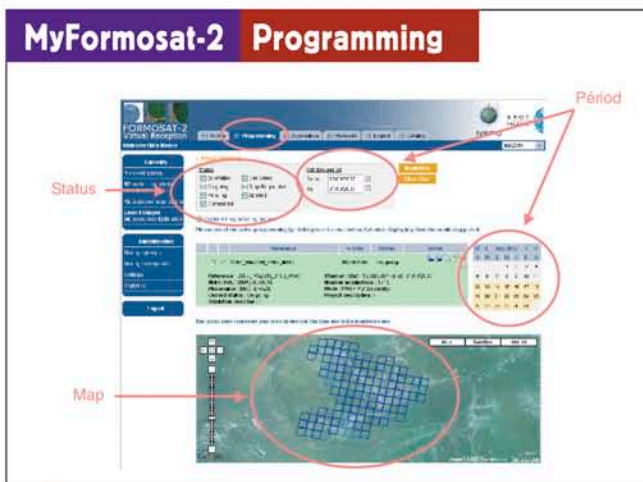


The customer keys in the coordinates of the area of interest, defines operational and technical criteria (dates, cloud cover, etc.) and then views the result of the feasibility study performed by NSPO before activating satellite tasking. Imagery acquired on a specified date can subsequently be viewed, with a series of low-resolution quicklooks of the same scene collected near the specified date but often under different weather conditions. In this way, the customer has no trouble finding the right image and can order and rapidly receive it on line. The new Web portal was tested for the first time in June and quickly drew a keen response from two customers. “We know this product will attract certain customers,” continues Anne-Sophie Runavot. “It’s an ideal tool for those who don’t need a

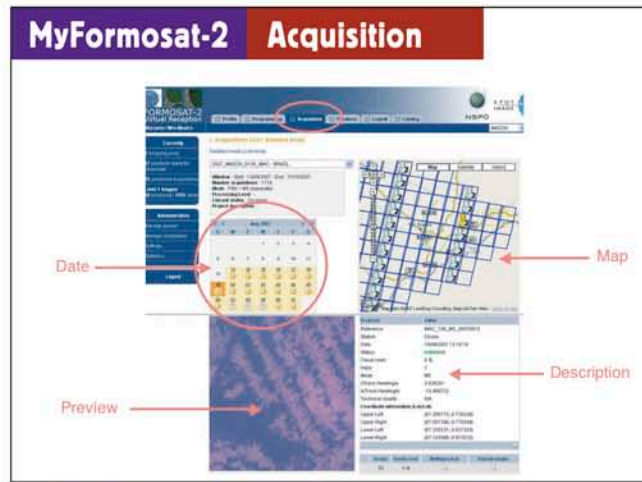
full-up receiving station but, on the other hand, are managing a major programme that calls for large volumes of data.” A Brazilian organization used the portal in August for a deforestation monitoring programme in the Amazon. This programme has made a big impact, prompting one of its managers to say they have at last found a tool to tackle deforestation in the region. A Russian customer is also using the portal to procure satellite imagery for its mapping needs. ■

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

■ [anne-sophie.runavot@spotimage.fr](mailto:anne-sophie.runavot@spotimage.fr)



Satellite tasking parameters with up-to-date status, dates and map of area of interest.



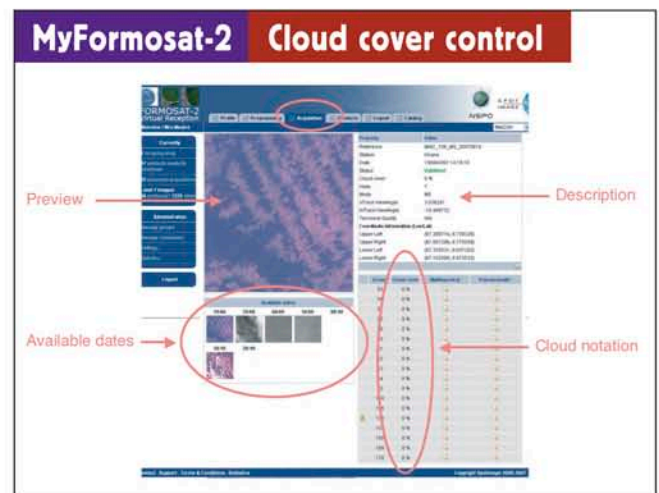
Two interactive zones let you preview acquisitions easily using the calendar or the basemap.

## CLOUDS ARE NO OBSTACLE FOR FORMOSAT-2

**FORMOSAT-2's impressive performance capabilities are geared to very specific missions. Its unique revisit capability enables it to:**

- acquire time series of data for change detection
- guarantee acquisition of a usable image before any other optical remote-sensing system
- collect imagery even in poor weather conditions
- acquire uniform and multisource coverages (SPOT 5 + FORMOSAT-2)

What's more, because FORMOSAT-2 guarantees the same viewing parameters every time, users know how many images they will obtain and can be confident they will register. And its local equator-crossing time of 9:30 a.m.—one hour earlier than most current optical satellites—is another advantage which, combined with daily revisits, increases the chances of acquiring useful imagery in often cloudy equatorial regions.



Thanks to the satellite's daily revisits, a scene may be available for several dates. When you select a scene on a precise date, quicklooks of the area of interest acquired on different dates are also displayed to help you select and order the data best suited to your needs.