



Source: Spot Image / EMM

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> KOMPSAT-2 HAS SENT BACK ITS FIRST IMAGERY AND IN-ORBIT COMMISSIONING IS GOING TO PLAN. WHAT DOES THIS NEW SATELLITE IMAGERY ADD TO YOUR PRODUCT PORTFOLIO?

KOMPSAT-2 is a good fit with Spot Image's philosophy, since it complements and enhances our multisensor offering. It offers one-metre resolution for mapping at scales of 1:5 000 to 1:2 000 and for updating of maps at any scale. The first images are already confirming its utility for a range of applications like urban planning, intelligence, managing the impact of natural resource exploitation or precision agriculture. Spot Image is also helping the Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) to qualify the satellite and KOMPSAT-2 products will offer the same uniform standard as the other products we already supply. We are proceeding in the same way with Taiwan's National Space Organization (NSPO) for FORMOSAT-2.

With our exclusive access to a constellation of five optical satellites (SPOT 2, 4 and 5, FORMOSAT-2 and KOMPSAT-2), partnership agreements with ESA and Infoterra GmbH to promote ERS/Envisat and TerraSAR-X, and a proven track record of more than 20 years, we offer the most compre-

hensive suite of products and services anywhere today. Whatever scale users work at, whatever their area of interest, and whatever their application domain and budget, we have the imagery solution they are looking for.

Where do you have an edge over your competitors today?

Very-high-resolution (VHR) products and services currently on the market offer excellent technical quality, but that's not enough. Because a small number of large-volume users have priority access to satellite capacity, it's not easy for the wider user community to access VHR data. KOMPSAT-2 provides an alternative solution with unprecedented coverage capability. This asset makes KOMPSAT-2 the best solution for large-scale mapping of large and small areas.

We are already serving many operational applications that call for strong and clear tasking commitments. And it is important for us to guarantee that the data we distribute from our range of satellite sources provide the same level of service as the SPOT series. The satellite programming solutions we offer for VHR products are therefore particularly innovative, including ded-

icated feasibility studies, regular progress reporting, the fastest possible acquisition times and—most important of all—a guarantee that cloud cover will not exceed 10%.

How do you see the VHR market evolving? What applications could benefit from new sensors and solutions?

We are set to see a big leap in resolution with the arrival of new sub-metric systems in the United States and, above all, the Pleiades constellation. Pleiades will afford faster access to data while ensuring sufficient capacity to meet demand for imagery. The two Pleiades satellites will facilitate timely delivery of fresh data and significantly shorten revisit times.

VHR imagery should therefore be more widely used for finely detailed mapping applications (defence, urban planning, coastal studies) and large territories (France's RGE national basemap), not forgetting of course the value of detailed and intuitive imagery for delivering information via the Web through geoportals, virtual tours, in-vehicle navigation and so forth. ■