

PRESS RELEASE**EOMAP GmbH & Co.KG Supports Oil Spill Monitoring in Western Australia**
Emergency Response / Earth Observation / Satellite Imagery / Australia

Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, October 8, 2009 - EOMAP GmbH&Co.KG, a provider of geospatial information products and services, has launched several services to support oil spill monitoring using optical satellites. The services were developed for mapping a major ecological disaster: a recent oil spill near the coast of Western Australia.

Oil, gas and condensate started seeping into the Timor Sea on Aug. 21 from a leak 250 kilometres north of Truscott, and 690 kilometres west of Darwin. The incident occurred in 3,500 meters depth during drilling by mobile offshore drilling unit of Bangkok-based PTT Exploration & Production Pcl. Since end of August the spill has covered several thousand square kilometres with approx. 400 barrels a day leaking. The spill could provoke heavy damage to commercially important fish stocks, the marine ecosystem and coral colonies around Ashmore Reef, about 840 kilometres west of Darwin and 610 kilometres north of Broome.

Timely and accurate detection of surface oil slicks is indispensable for monitoring oil spill hazards and operating drift forecast models. Such data is extremely valuable to emergency response management. Assessment of the distribution of oil slicks is often implemented with the use of satellite remote sensing techniques. Typically these techniques rely on visible, infrared and synthetic aperture radar (SAR). Dampened ocean surface roughness caused by the oil layer is the phenomena identifiable when processing remote sensing imagery. When using SAR data or optical, high-resolution satellite imagery, the limiting factor is mainly spatial coverage and revisit frequency.

To avoid these limitations, procedures for mapping oil slicks using various optical satellite sensors were developed. They cover wide swath sensors such as MODIS and MERIS, and high resolution satellites like RapidEye. These systems are capable of imaging any point on earth every 1-2 days. While the MODIS and MERIS instruments provide imagery at medium resolution (250m-500m), RapidEye's five satellite constellation produces 5 meter resolution imagery.

"The combination of the satellite fleets of NASA, ESA and numerous commercial high resolution satellites such as RapidEye greatly enhances the chance to obtain cloud-free, high quality images which can be effectively used for the detection of oil spills," states Dr. Viacheslav Kiselev, Head of Development for EOMAP GmbH&Co.KG.

EOMAP's interpretation software relies on standardized physical modelling, meaning that any kind of optical remote sensing imagery may be processed and classified. This approach is a powerful method to reliably meet the customer's requirements at the best possible price.

About EOMAP GmbH & Co.KG

EOMAP creates sophisticated map products based on multi- to hyperspectral remote sensing data, SAR data, as well as classification software solutions. Our solutions rely on standardized physical models and work independently of scale, sensor type, and geographic location. We offer customized, large-area mapping based on satellite and airborne imagery for a manifold of applications with a focus on aquatic remote sensing. EOMAP's services can be applied in environmental monitoring and spatial explorations, in particular for coastal zones, inland waters, wetlands, and other areas where high-precision mapping is required. EOMAP GmbH & Co.KG is an independent company located in Oberpfaffenhofen, near Munich, Germany.

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About RapidEye AG

RapidEye is an ISO-certified geospatial information provider focused on integrating customized and industry specific solutions into the workflow of global customers in agriculture, forestry, energy, infrastructure, government, security and emergency. RapidEye experts and the satellite system – a constellation of five satellites capable of downloading over 4 million km² of high resolution, multi-spectral imagery per day, and a ground segment for processing and archiving data – allow for cost-effective customized services. The unique combination of large area coverage, high spatial resolution and the possibility of daily revisit to an area provide for superior management information solutions. Currently, more than 110 experts from more than 20 countries are employed by RapidEye, with plans to grow the team to 140 by late 2009.

RapidEye benefits from a public-private partnership with the Space Agency of the German Aerospace Center (DLR), which is supported by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. RapidEye is also cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). For more information on ERDF please contact [efreinfo at mw.brandenburg.de](mailto:efreinfo@mw.brandenburg.de).

For more information contact

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