



# Press release

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## World's First Global Water Quality Portal Built to Support UNESCO Programme

- UNESCO has selected EOMAP products to support global water quality assessment for the International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) of UNESCO-IHP
- EOMAP is a world leader in optical remote sensing in the aquatic sector
- The new portal is part of EOMAP's next-generation product range, delivering innovation through Earth Observation data solutions for businesses and governmental agencies around the world

**Seefeld, 22 January 2018** – [EOMAP GmbH & Co.KG](#) has built the world's first global water quality portal using Earth Observation and satellite data to support the International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) of [UNESCO's](#) International Hydrological Programme (IHP). The comprehensive [IIWQ World Water Quality Portal](#) will assist with global water quality assessment and capacity building for streams, lakes and rivers. The launch will take place at UNESCO Headquarters today and an exhibition on "Satellite-based Water Quality Monitoring" will be available from 22-26 January 2018.

The degradation of water quality threatens human health, limits food production, reduces ecosystem functions and hinders economic growth. Newly emerging pollutants and changing climate patterns bring about a new water quality challenge with still unknown long-term impacts on human health and ecosystems. Monitoring water quality is essential to determine the health of freshwater systems as well as identify signs of degradation over weeks, months and years.

International agencies recognize the growing need to monitor the effects of pollution on our water cycle. Dr. Sarantuyaa Zandaryaa, Programme Specialist, Division of Water Sciences UNESCO-IHP, said: "In view of scarce water quality information at the global and national levels, the Portal will be a valuable tool to obtain water quality information, especially in remote areas and in developing country regions such as Africa, Asia, Latin America, and SIDS where water quality monitoring networks and laboratory capacity lack. It is also a decision-support tool and will help countries identify the most pressing water quality problems such as pollution hotspots. Hence, the Portal will support national efforts for the implementation of

water quality related SDG targets as well as for monitoring progress towards their realization."

### **UNESCO-IHP IIWQ World Water Quality Portal**

Based on EOMAP's web service, the IIWQ Portal is a cost-saving solution to water quality monitoring providing users with near real-time data, campaign planning support, and access to remote and inaccessible areas. As a web-based service, users can quickly obtain measurements at freely selectable virtual stations for any location worldwide.

A comprehensive range of satellite-based water quality parameters such as turbidity, chlorophyll and indicators for toxic Cyanobacteria blooms can be mapped globally with weekly or even daily sampling frequencies under cloud-free conditions.

The IIWQ Portal also includes functionalities to select different time periods dating back over the last three decades. Historic measurements are provided at a 30m resolution for selected regions of each continent throughout 2016, and can be continued with various spatial and temporal resolutions for every country.

Dr. Thomas Heege, Chief Executive Officer, EOMAP GmbH & Co. KG, pointed out: "Remote sensing is an efficient and cost-effective tool to assess a variety of physical and biological parameters in aquatic ecosystems over small-scaled and large areas. The IIWQ Portal can respond to the challenges that utilities and other agencies have for effectively monitoring and responding to water quality threats such as algal blooms and turbidity. It is the first portal to combine high resolution global coverage with the range of measurements needed for effective global water quality monitoring and user-friendly features."

"We are thrilled to be chosen by UNESCO to support such an important programme and help promote collaboration to address global water quality issues. Water security is crucial in achieving sustainable development and thriving economies. EOMAP products and expertise are well positioned to support those goals."

The water quality information is made freely and easily accessible through the IIWQ World Water Quality Portal at <http://worldwaterquality.org/>. Environmental managers, politicians and scientists can ingest the service directly through the UNESCO web mapping service into their geospatial information systems for analysis and assessment.

EOMAP will launch an updated web application that incorporates additional interfaces and features such as guidance into risk management and application of Earth-Observation data.

#### **Press contact:**

EOMAP GmbH & Co.KG  
Marie-Luise Wilhelm  
Marketing & Communications  
Schlosshof 4  
D-82229 Seefeld  
T: +49 (0)8152-99861-18  
M: +49 (0) 176- 8180-4692  
[wilhelm@eomap.com](mailto:wilhelm@eomap.com)  
[www.eomap.com](http://www.eomap.com)

**For press requests please contact EOMAP on 22 January 2018:**  
**+49 (0) 176-8180-4692 (Marie-Luise Wilhelm)**  
**+49 (0) 175-179-2270 (Dr. Thomas Heege)**

**More about EOMAP GmbH & Co. KG:**

EOMAP is a world leading company for optical remote sensing in the aquatic sector. The company provides worldwide monitoring on water quality and delivers satellite-derived bathymetric charts and benthic habitat maps of marine, coastal, and inland water environments to international clients such as environmental agencies, offshore and water related companies. EOMAP's products and services have been awarded the Copernicus Award in 2011 and 2013 and the Geospatial World Award in 2017.

<http://eomap.com/world-water-quality/>

EOMAP Video on UNESCO-IHP IIWQ Portal

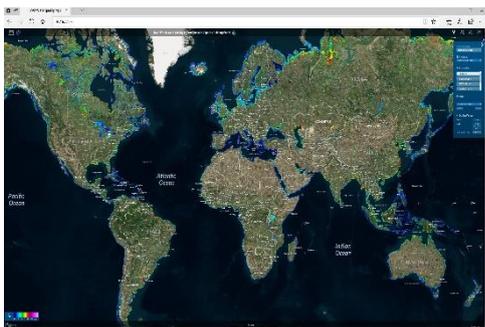
<http://www.eomap.com/iiwq-about-eomap/>

**More about UNESCO IIWQ:**

UNESCO, through its International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) under IHP, supports the Member States in responding to water quality challenges by promoting scientific research, mobilising and disseminating knowledge, facilitating the sharing and exchange of technological and policy approaches, fostering capacity building, and raising awareness of water quality.

<http://en.unesco.org/waterquality-IIWQ>

**Press photos**



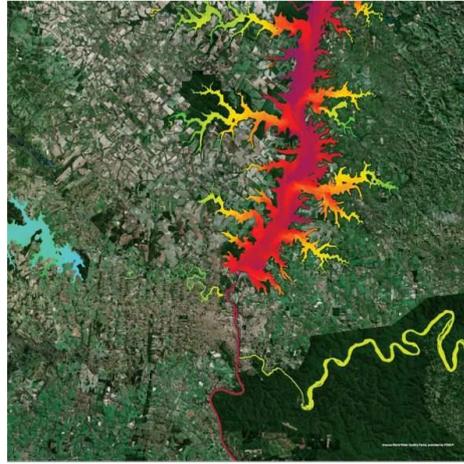
**Photo 1:** World Water Quality Portal, UNESCO-IHP IIWQ EOMAP GmbH Co.KG © EOMAP



**Photo 2:** Dr. Thomas Heege, Chief Executive Officer, EOMAP GmbH & Co. KG Headquarters Germany (Seefeld) © Nila Thiel



**Photo 3:** Florida Lakes, USA, World Water Quality Portal, UNESCO-IHP IIWQ EOMAP GmbH Co.KG. The portal shows the region around Lake Apopka, Lake Harris and Lake Griffin and depicts the differences in the tropical state of the Florida lakes. The Harmful Algae Bloom Indicator helps to identify the actual status of the waterbody, showing bright alarming colors when harmful algae are most likely to be present © EOMAP



**Photo 4:** Itaipú Reservoir and Paraná River, Brazil/Paraguay, World Water Quality Portal, UNESCO-IHP IIWQ EOMAP GmbH Co.KG. The portal shows the turbidity distribution and visualizes the interaction between many different waterbodies © EOMAP