

EARTH-i Receives £2.7 Million from UK Government to Improve Crop Yield for African Coffee Farmers

EARTH-i, one of Europe's most prominent New Space companies, has been awarded a grant of £2.7 million from the UK Space Agency's International Partnership Programme, which supports UK space firms tackling global challenges. The grant will enable Earth-i to launch the ACCORD programme in Kenya and Rwanda. ACCORD has been specifically developed to help smallholder coffee farmers in Africa improve crop quality and yield.

Drone Delivery Canada Receives \$7 Million from Warrant Acceleration

Drone Delivery Canada 'DDC or the Company', has reported that the Company has received \$7.0 Million from the exercise of warrants which the expiry was accelerated to February 23, 2018 as previously announced on January 24, 2018. DDC now has approximately \$23.5 Million in its treasury and has no warrants currently outstanding" commented Richard Buzbuzian.

PrecisionHawk Secures \$75 Million to Foster Global Adoption of Commercial Drone Technology

PrecisionHawk, Inc. – a leading provider of drone technology for the enterprise – has recently announced that it has raised a \$75 million round of funding from a group of venture and strategic investors. This investment brings PrecisionHawk's total funding to more than \$100 million since being founded in 2010, making it the world's most well-capitalized commercial drone company.

Rolta Wins Prestigious Digital Transformation Projects Totalling Rs. 365 Crores in India

Rolta India Limited (Rolta), has recently announced that it has recently been awarded various large contracts worth Rs. 365 crores in total by large and prestigious organisations from varied industries to fulfil their ambitions for Digital Transformation. Digital transformation has emerged as the #1 driver for sweeping change in the world around us.

MAPPs Geospatial Excellence Award for RIEGL miniVUX-1UAV LiDAR Sensor

RIEGL became the proud recipient of the 2017 MAPPs Geospatial Products and Services Excellence Award. This prestigious award was bestowed upon the RIEGL miniVUX-1UAV miniaturized LiDAR sensor for unmanned laser scanning in the Technology Innovation category at the 2018 MAPPs Winter Conference!

Teledyne Optech Announces Michael Perdue as new Director of Customer Service

Teledyne Optech has recently announced that Mr. Michael Perdue has joined the company as Director of Customer Service starting February 1, 2018. Mr. Perdue's arrival is part of Teledyne Optech's drive to provide top-notch service to our clients and demonstrate our commitment to their success.

EarthSense Appoints Thomas Hall as Managing Director

EarthSense Systems, the air quality monitoring, measuring and modelling specialist, has appointed Thomas Hall as Managing Director. A remote sensing specialist with over 19 years' experience in the geospatial industry, Hall has a proven track record of developing emerging technology for wide market adoption and commercialisation.

Woolpert's Jeff Lovin Elected ASPRS Vice-President

Jeff Lovin, Woolpert senior vice president and director of Government Solutions, has been elected vice-president of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). ASPRS, also known as The Imaging and Geospatial Information Society, was founded in 1934 and serves more than 7,000 professional members around the world. Lovin, who has served on ASPRS committees and as president of the Eastern Great Lakes Chapter, will serve as vice-president in 2018, president-elect in 2019 and president in 2020.

Trimble Appoints New Board Member

Trimble has recently announced the appointment of Johan Wibergh to its Board of Directors. Wibergh is the group technology officer and CIO of Vodafone, one of the world's largest

telecommunications companies. In this capacity, he is responsible for Vodafone's network and IT strategy, architecture, operation and product development. He is also responsible for technology security and customer data protection strategy. Wibergh holds a Masters in Computer Science from Linköping University in Sweden.

Woolpert Awarded Part of \$610M FEMA Contract to Support Disaster Relief

Woolpert will provide technical engineering and architecture resources under a five-year, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Technical Assistance Contract (PA TAC) IV, which has a ceiling value of \$610 million. Serco Inc., the prime contractor, is a professional, technology and management services provider. Serco has partnered with Woolpert to evaluate and assess damage and needed repairs to public infrastructure after a presidentially declared natural disaster or emergency.

Trimble Acquires Stabiplan to Expand its European MEP Engineering Solutions

Trimble has recently announced that it has acquired Stabiplan B.V. based in Bodegraven, Netherlands, a 3D Computer Aided Design and Engineering (CAD/CAE) software and Building Information Modeling (BIM) content provider for the Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) industries in Europe. The Stabiplan acquisition broadens Trimble's existing construction solutions for MEP contractors and engineers that enable automated estimating, project management, modeling, detailing, layout and construction. Financial terms were not disclosed.

HERE to Acquire Global Indoor Maps Provider Micello

HERE Technologies has announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Micello. The planned acquisition supports HERE's strategy to provide world-class mapping and advanced location services both indoors and outdoors. In combination with HERE's unique tracking technologies, indoor maps will enable new and innovative market solutions such as the tracking of parts on a factory floor, the optimization of workspace usage, etc.

OGC Announces Disasters Interoperability Concept Development Study

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) has announced the Disasters Interoperability Concept Development Study (CDS). The CDS will assess the current state of data and product exchange technologies as used in disaster planning, response, and recovery. The information gained in the CDS will aid in developing a series of future pilots that will in turn advance the state of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) that support disaster risk reduction across the globe.

Popular URISA Program – GIS Leadership Academy to be Offered Twice in 2018

URISA has announced that its GIS Leadership Academy will be offered twice in 2018. The success of any GIS program is largely tied to the capabilities of its leader. Strong leadership is necessary to establish a solid GIS program, operate efficiently and effectively, coordinate participants, adapt to change, and move a program forward. Leadership, however, is a skill that must be developed.

UNSW Will Produce 3D Digital Maps of Sydney's Buildings and Infrastructure

Geospatial scientist Sisi Zlatanova, a leading expert in 3D mapping of public space, will join UNSW's Faculty of Built Environment in January to set up the University's first Geospatial Information Centre. She will investigate the production and management of 3D digital models for large public buildings at UNSW and in Sydney's CBD, with the aim to improve accessibility, safety and emergency response procedures.

Uzbekistan Will Apply International Geodetic Coordinate Systems on Its Territory

According to the recent press release by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre, there is no open coordinate system in Uzbekistan, which is one of the factors hampering the development in the country of works on the creation of an information system for

cadastral registration and state registration of rights to real estate, as well as the National Geoinformation System aimed at the open and qualitative provision of state, including electronic, services to the population, business entities. Until now, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as the state system of geodetic coordinates, the 1942 Coordinate System (SK-42), which covers the whole territory of the country, was used.

Indonesian Peat Prize Announces 1 Million US Dollar Competition Winner

The Geospatial Information Agency (BIG), has announced the International Peat Mapping Team , which consists of scientists from Remote Sensing Solutions GmbH, Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology, and Sriwijaya University, as winners of the \$ 1 million Indonesian Peat Prize competition . The two-year competition aims to find the best method to map the extent and thickness of peatlands.

India: Government Added Nine New Names in Smart Cities

Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has recently announced the name of nine more smart cities, taking the total to 99. The mission of hundred smart cities was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015.

Silvassa in Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli has topped the list of winning cities in this round of competition. The other cities include Erode in Tamil Nadu, Diu in Union Territory of Daman and Diu, Biharsharif in Bihar, Bareilly, Saharanpur and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.

The minister said, the nine cities have proposed an investment of 12 thousand 824 crore rupees to develop 409 projects. He said, with the selection of these nine cities, the total proposed investment in 99 smart cities will be Rs. 2,03,979 crore.

Microsoft India Using Artificial Intelligence to Help Indian Farmers

New technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cloud Machine Learning, Satellite Imagery and advanced analytics are empowering small-holder farmers in

India to increase their income through higher crop yield and greater price control. In collaboration with ICRISAT, Microsoft has developed an AI-Sowing App powered by Microsoft Cortana Intelligence Suite including Machine Learning and Power BI. Microsoft has developed a multivariate agricultural commodity price forecasting model to predict future commodity arrival and the corresponding prices.

UK Space Agency Announces New Funding for Industry

The grants of €200,000 have been organised by the UK Space Agency and ESA as a new way of applying for funding for technology developments under ESA's General Support Technology Programme (GSTP) which has existed for nearly 25 years. This new route to GSTP funding allows those interested in the programme to propose a project for development in their area of interest directly to UK Space Agency and ESA.

Satellite Data for Spatial Mapping of Marine Fisheries

Kochi, India - The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) will make use of remote sensing satellite data for the spatial mapping of marine fisheries and mangrove resources. The spatial mapping of marine fisheries resources would help in locating fishing areas, navigational channels, and protected areas distinctively in open sea waters. Besides, CMFRI has inked a pact with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad, of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), for conducting a collaborative study to assess blue carbon emissions and their sequestration.

China Plans to Launch 60 High-resolution Video Satellites by 2020

China plans to launch 60 high-resolution Jilin-1 video satellites by 2020. The high-resolution optical remote sensing satellites were independently developed by Chang Guang Satellite Technology Co. Ltd. for commercial use. Currently, China has launched 10 Jilin-1 satellites into space. In October 2015, four Jilin-1 commercial satellites were sent into space. In January 2018, Jilin-1 Video 07 and 08 were launched into orbit to provide remote sensing data for government and industry users.

Copernicus Incubation Programme to Develop Your Business

The Copernicus Incubation was launched by the European Commission to assist start-ups and scale-ups in using the opportunities brought by the Copernicus full, free and open data. The Programme will award 50,000 EUR equity-free funding to 20 start-ups every year to boost EO data-based businesses. The selected applicants will also have access to a new network, tools and opportunities that can help early-stage start-ups as well as already operating businesses that aim to further grow. Detailed information is available on the Copernicus Incubator website: <http://copernicus-incubation.eu>

PAZ Earth Observation Satellite Successfully Launched

The Spanish Earth observation satellite PAZ was successfully launched on 22 February 2018 at 15:17 CET from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, United States, on board a Falcon 9 rocket. Interestingly, PAZ is being positioned on the same orbit as the German TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X radar satellites. PAZ will use it to deliver the same radar products as TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X, with resolutions ranging from 18 metres to approximately one metre, regardless of the time of day or cloud cover.

Earth-i Launches Prototype of World's First Full-colour, Full-motion Video Satellite Constellation

British 'New Space' pioneer Earth-i has confirmed that the pre-production prototype satellite of its upcoming satellite constellation was successfully launched early on January 18, 2018. The new commercial constellation – which the company announced is called Vivid-i – will be the first of its kind to provide full-colour video; and the first European-owned constellation able to provide both video and still images. The multiple satellites within the Vivid-i Constellation will significantly increase the ability of companies and institutions to monitor, track and analyse activities, patterns of life and changes at any location on earth. Footage will be available for analysis within minutes of being captured and will improve decision-making and response times in a wide variety of scenarios.

ISRO Successfully Launches Cartosat-2 Series Remote Sensing Satellite Along with 30 Co-passenger Satellites in a Single Flight

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its forty second flight, successfully launched the 710 kg Cartosat-2 Series Remote Sensing Satellite along with 30 co-passenger satellites today (January 12, 2018) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. This flight is designated as PSLV-C40. The 11 kg INS-1C and the 100 kg class Microsat, the two Indian co-passenger satellites of Cartosat-2, are also being monitored and controlled from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. The 28 international customer satellites belong to Canada, Finland, France, Republic of Korea, UK and the USA. So far, PSLV has successfully launched 51 Indian satellites and 237 customer satellites from abroad.

Japan Successfully Launches Small Radar Imaging Satellite "ASNARO-2"

On January 18, 2018, JAXA successfully launched Epsilon-3, the third Epsilon launch vehicle which encapsulates NEC Small radar satellite "ASNARO-2", from the JAXA Uchinoura Space Center. The launch occurred on time. The launch and flight of Epsilon-3 took place normally. Approximately 52 minutes 35 seconds into the flight, the separation of ASNARO-2 proceeded, with confirmation as successful. The spacecraft carries XSAR, a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) payload operating in the X band. This can be operated in three different observation modes: spotlight, strip mapping and scanning. The spotlight mode, where the instrument focusses on a small area of the Earth's surface, offers the highest resolution – one meter (3 feet) or better – with a swath width of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles, 5.4 nautical miles). In strip mapping mode, the satellite can image a longer strip of the Earth's surface in the direction of travel.

First ICEYE-X1 Radar Image from Space Published

ICEYE, the leader in synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) technology for microsatellites providing expanded access to reliable and timely earth observation data, has published the first radar image obtained with the ICEYE-X1 SAR satellite on January 17, 2018. The image depicts

Noatak National Preserve, Alaska, on Jan. 15, 2018. ICEYE-X1 is the world's first SAR satellite under 100 kg, launched on Jan. 12, 2018 on ISRO's PSLV-C40 from Satish Dhawan Space Center in India. The full image transmitted to the ground from ICEYE-X1 exceeded 1.2GB of raw data and spans an area of roughly 80 x 40 km on the ground. ICEYE-X1 obtained the image in the span of ten seconds, traveling at a speed of more than 7.5 km/s and at an altitude exceeding 500 km. Matching what ICEYE simulated prior to the launch, the final data resolution from the first satellite reaches 10 x 10 meters.

China Launches Two SuperView-1 Remote Sensing Satellites

Xinhua - China launches SuperView-1 03/04, a pair of 0.5-meter high-resolution remote sensing satellites, from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province, Jan. 9, 2018. The satellites blasted off on the back of a Long March 2D rocket. The mission aims to promote the country's commercial use of high-resolution remote sensing satellites. The satellites are equipped with two 0.5m panchromatic and 2m multispectral, covering an area of 12km in diameter and are expected to offer remote sensing data to customers worldwide and provide services to land and resource surveys, mapping, environmental monitoring, finance and insurance as well as the Internet industry.

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd Implemented GPS Mapping Technology for Speedy Location and Repair of Faults

In a first for India, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (TPDDL) has implemented GPS mapping and Radio Frequency Identification Detector (RFID) Marker installation for speedy location and repair of faults in the grid. TPDDL has already carried out mapping of around 1,200 cable routes using GPS technology and installation of 1,000 RFID Markers in the first phase of the project and plans to expand it to the remaining cable routes soon. The company said the technology has allowed it to reduce the effective time to locate a cable fault from an average 90 minutes to average 45 minutes.

LiDAR

January - March 15, 2018

The Environment Agency to Map England's Entire Landscape with 3D Laser Mapping

The Environment Agency has announced plans to map England's entire landscape by 2020, using the data to assess flood risk and inform conservation work. Using aircraft equipped with laser scanners, the Environment Agency will map all 130,000 sq. km of the country, including rivers, fields and national parks – equivalent to 32 million football pitches. Currently about 75 per cent of the country is mapped but with only sporadic coverage of upland areas.

Teledyne Optech Titan LiDAR Enables Discovery of Extended Mayan Ruins in Guatemala

Teledyne Optech's Titan sensor was used by the University of Houston's National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM) to reveal extensive Mayan ruins in Guatemala. Lidar technology was able to identify hundreds of previously unknown structures, including raised highways, and

complex irrigation and terracing systems. After the collapse of the Mayan civilization, their cities and monuments were quickly covered by dense and thick rainforest. Flying high above the rainforest, Titan's lasers penetrated the canopy to collect almost a million data points per second from the thick rainforest forest floor, giving archaeologists a "bare earth" view of the structures underneath. Having rapidly covered 2,100 sq. km, Titan's data revealed massive amounts of ruins hidden below the forest, showing that their urban centers were significantly larger than archaeologists had previously thought. Optech Titan is the first commercial multispectral lidar sensor to incorporate 3 independent laser wavelengths into a single sensor design, with beams at 532, 1064, and 1550 nm (0.5/1.0/1.5 microns) and a ground sampling rate of 300 kHz per beam.

Bangalore Started Rooftop Solar Energy Potential Mapping Using Aerial LiDAR

Bescom has commissioned the mapping in a bid to meet its target of generation of 1,000 MW of rooftop solar energy by 2022 from Bengaluru alone. The aircraft will cover an approximate area of 1,100 sq. km,

generating high-resolution images of rooftops of buildings in the city. The mapping will be carried out by CSTEP and the data generated will be submitted to the Energy Department. Once the data is collated and presented to the Energy Department, residents of the city will be able to check the capacity of solar power generation of the rooftops of their respective buildings, when they log in to the Bescom website to pay electricity bill.

TetraVue Partners with CVidia and AGC/Wideye at CES 2018 to Demonstrate 4D LiDAR Superiority for Autonomous Vehicles

TetraVue, the leader in high definition 4D LiDAR™ technology, today announced partnerships with NVIDIA, CVidia and AGC/Wideye to highlight the benefits of TetraVue's groundbreaking high-resolution LiDAR for next generation ADAS and self-driving applications. The four companies will demonstrate the impact of TetraVue's 4D LiDAR 100x resolution advantage for the development of advanced autonomous vehicle systems at TetraVue's booth #6619 in the automotive North Hall at CES 2018.

GNSS & SURVEYING

January - March 15, 2018

Helix Technologies Wins ESA Contract to Develop Multi-frequency GNSS Antenna Optimised For Galileo

Helix Technologies Ltd has been awarded a significant contract by the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop its NEXTGEN GNSS antenna – a next-generation, multi-frequency GNSS antenna optimised for the advanced Galileo E1 Alt-BOC and wide-band E5 Alt-BOC waveforms for use in driverless cars. The antenna, to be developed under the ESA's Navigation Innovation and Support Programme, will provide enhanced performance due to its dielectric, multi-filar construction. It will also be optimised to take maximum advantage of the Galileo E5 Alt-BOC waveform, which enables significantly improved measurement accuracy, precision and multi-path suppression over conventional GNSS signals.

NASA Engineers Demonstrated X-ray Navigation in Space

A team of NASA engineers has demonstrated fully autonomous X-ray navigation in space — a capability that could revolutionize NASA's ability in the future to pilot robotic spacecraft to the far reaches of the solar system and beyond. The demonstration, which the team carried out with an experiment called Station Explorer for X-ray Timing and Navigation Technology, or SEXTANT, showed that millisecond pulsars could be used to accurately determine the location of an object moving at thousands of miles per hour in space — similar to how the Global Positioning System, widely known as GPS, provides positioning, navigation, and timing services to users on Earth with its constellation of 24 operating satellites.

HERE Supports Baidu With Indoor Maps

HERE Technologies, a global leader in mapping and location services, has announced that it will broaden its

collaboration with Baidu to power Baidu Maps with indoor map data for outside of China. Enriched with HERE Venue Maps, Baidu Maps will give people access to maps of venues with 2D and 3D floor plans.

IIT-Roorkee Professor Develops New Technology for Aerial Survey

Professor Kamal Jain at the civil engineering department of the IIT used a drone for taking videos with an interactive web map to demonstrate the technology that records data, including the place and time on a computer screen. Using a drone over a particular area to take video images which are tagged with a web map that enables the user to know the accurate geospatial information like latitude or longitude of each point. with the help of Google map, the system is quite useful for infrastructure and defence sectors.

Elaborating on the use of the system for Uttarakhand, where landslides, flood and armed forces troop movement takes place, Jain said he has conducted successful tests.

PRODUCT LAUNCH

January - March 15, 2018

GIS & EO

Esri

- Esri Releases Survey123 for ArcGIS with New Spike Integration
- Esri Releases World's First Complete Utility GIS Platform

Mapbox

- Mapbox Launches Global Reality-Grade AR Location Platform

Teledyne CARIS

- Teledyne CARIS™ Launches CARIS Onboard™ 2.0.

Avenza Systems Inc.

- Avenza Releases MAPublisher 10.1 For Adobe Illustrator

Caliper Corporation

- Maptitude 2018 is Now Available

Boundless

- Boundless Launches Massively Scalable Geospatial Server for the Enterprise

HP Inc.

- HP Launches World's Most Secure Large Format Printers for GIS Mapping

Blue Marble Geographics

- Global Mapper v19.1 Now Available

LiDAR

Hexagon

- Hexagon Announces Next Generation Leica Rugby Lasers – The First Upgradable Lasers for Construction
- Leica Geosystems Introduces Latest in Linear Mode LiDAR: Leica TerrainMapper Provides Industry-Leading Performance for Mapping Complex Terrain.
- Leica Geosystems Introduces New Leica Pegasus:Two - A Multipurpose Mobile Mapping Platform Increases Smart City Applications.

PDF3D

- PDF3D's V2.15 Brings New Tech, Panoramic 360 and Patented Point Cloud Simplification along with Highest Performing 3D PDF Conversion SDK.

Trimble

- Trimble Announces New MX9 Mobile Mapping System for Surveying, Engineering and Geospatial Professionals

Orbit GT

- Orbit GT Releases 3D Mapping Content Manager V18

GNSS & SURVEYING

Trimble

- Trimble Introduces Trimble® Alloy™ A Next Generation GNSS Reference Receiver

Topcon

- Topcon Announces New GM-100 Manual Total Station with Advanced Performance And Accuracy
- Topcon Announces Upcoming MAGNET Enterprise Release Including Autodesk BIM 360 Integration
- Topcon Announces New Online Courses For myTopcon Support Site

DRONE/UAV

DroneDeploy

- DroneDeploy Launches Real-Time Mapping for Instant Aerial Data and Analysis

Delair

- Delair Introduces Industry's Most Advanced Fixed-Wing UAV for LiDAR-Based Aerial Surveying and 3D Mapping

YellowScan

- YellowScan Unveils "Surveyor Ultra" Its New UAV-LiDAR System

NEW DATA RESOURCES

DLR

- DLR Spin-off EOMAP Launches an Online Portal for UNESCO Programme on Global Indicator of Water Quality

EuroGeographics

- EuroGeographics Announces New Additions to Open Data for 2018

NEWS DIGEST

GEO EVENTS

March 26 - 28, 2018

Sixth International Conference On Remote Sensing and Geo-Information of the Environment, RSCy2018

Paphos, Cyprus

<http://www.cyprusremotesensing.com/rscy2018/>

April 10 -12, 2018

Commercial UAV Expo Europe

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<https://www.expouav.com/europe/>

April 24 -25, 2018

12th International Navigation Forum

Moscow

<http://www.glonass-forum.com>

April 26 -27, 2018

EnerGIS 2018 – GIS for Energy!

Canonsburg, PA, USA

<https://energis.us>

May 07 -10, 2018

ISPRS Symposium 2018 on "Developments, Technologies and Applications in Remote Sensing"

Beijing, China

<http://www.isprs-tc3.tianditu.com>

May 14 -16, 2018

FOSS4G North America 2018

St. Louis, MO, USA

<https://2018.foss4g-na.org>

May 22 - 23, 2018

GEO Business 2018

London, England, UK

<http://www.geobusinessshow.com>

June 25 - 29, 2018

Geomapplica 2018

Syros – Mukonos Islands, Greece

<http://2018.geomapplica.eu>

