

EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
International Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions (1)

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COLLABORATION IN GEO-INFORMATICS AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
BETWEEN GISTDA AND NSPO

Abstract

GISTDA (Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency) has been established since November 2000 as an umbrella organization for all GIS activities in Thailand. Furthermore, in October 2008, Thailand launched its first Earth Observation Satellite (Thailand Earth Observation Satellite - THEOS) and GISTDA's role expanded from GIS activities to all space-related activities. Prior to launching the satellite, as part of the contract, GISTDA sent 20 engineers to participate in a technology transfer program in France with EADS Astrium. However, due to lack of actual hands-on experiences during and after the technology program, GISTDA still lacks the expertise to be able to initiate a satellite development program by itself. In order to be self-sufficient, GISTDA gave emphasis on setting up global partners in the quest for knowledge sharing. The most active and fruitful partnership that GISTDA has setup is with National Space Organization (NSPO). The reason that the partnership with NSPO is so effective is because both the agencies have similar goals and are similar in size and even operate satellites with the same platform (Astrosat 500) from the same manufacturer (EADS Astrium). In this cooperation with NSPO, hands-on experiences in satellite development is a priority but other domain of cooperation also includes resource sharing (ground stations, images, personnels) and joint programming for disaster recovery are a few among many. The cooperation includes both technical visits and online discussions in the development of satellite technology and satellite operations. The benefits on both side are tremendous with cost saving, optimization of resources and development of personnels. The paper shall discuss the entire framework of the cooperation, the timeline and the work packages along with the quantifiable benefits.