

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

Author: Ms. Lulekwa Makapela
South Africa, lulu@space.gov.za

Mr. Terence Newby
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR), South Africa, tnewby@csir.co.za

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: AN INSIGHT INTO THE EU-SOUTH
AFRICA EARTH OBSERVATION INITIATIVES

Abstract

ABSTRACT:

Earth observation applications have been recognised as essential to support sustainable development and to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The development and use of earth observation Missions play a crucial role to monitor problems relating to climate change and to promote agricultural production, which is of particular importance for African nations, as these problems impede African development. International cooperation and in particular the current relations between the EU and South Africa are pivotal to improving the quality of lives of both South Africans and Europeans. Earth Observation applications are an efficient and sustainable tool to achieve progress in many issues and form a substantial element of the development efforts by informing decision and policy making.

The paper will start with a brief review of current Earth Observation activities in South Africa. The paper will also provide a brief perspective on EU-SA Earth Observation partnerships and their importance. Lastly, the paper will focus on different international Earth Observation initiatives that are currently being implemented by South Africa and how these partnerships play a crucial role in streamlining and co-ordinating on-going activities and the building of capacities on the African continent.