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SYMPOSIUM ON INTEGRATED APPLICATIONS (B5)
Integrated Applications End-to-End Solutions (2)

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SPACE AND SECURITY HAND IN HAND – INTEGRATED SPACE APPLICATIONS IN
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OF THE CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Abstract

The key challenge for effective utilisation of space solutions in crisis management is no longer related to availability of technical solutions. The wide variety of tools and technologies can be used both during the crisis and in a preparedness phase of crisis management activities. However, their effective use requires implementation of those solutions into operational procedures and proper awareness among and training of the users.

To tackle those challenges and facilitate the most effective use of space-related solutions among the Polish crisis management institutions, the Crisis Information Centre SRC (CIC) established close cooperation with the Masovian crisis management centre (MCMC), which coordinates majority of crisis operations in the central region of Poland. The CIC personnel provides operational support for the MCMC, working as part of the MCMC team both in normal conditions and during the crisis, including activities conducted in the field.

As part of the ESA-funded GECCO project, CIC developed a set of analytical products of different maturity level that are based on space-derived information and provide strategic level and situational information to crisis management authorities. The demonstrator of the integrated information environment has been developed to provide access to those information products for users from the Polish crisis management community. This portal combines space-related analytical products based on EO data with other geospatial data and some GNSS-related information (e.g. traffic monitoring), which are presented in an integrated manner. The portal is used by MCMC with support of CIC. In the next phase the portal will be made available to selected other crisis management institutions to improve exchange of geospatial information among those institutions. As part of the test campaign, the portal will also be made available during exercises by means of satellite communication to demonstrate the value of the situational awareness and communication system completely independent from local infrastructure.

The paper presents experience resulting from the first six months of close cooperation between MCMC and CIC. It covers the operational examples of using space-derived products during actual operations of the crisis management centre. It provides initial evaluation and recommendations regarding operational value of those information and the optimal form of information products. The paper also provides initial observations regarding the model of close cooperation between crisis management and space experts working as an integrated team. Those observations cover potential models of the systemic solution, their sustainability and the roadmap for implementation.

[Preferred type of presentation: oral]