

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

Author: Mr. jean-pierre ANTIKIDIS
BLUE PLANET, France

Dr. Michel COURTOIS
France

V-GLOBE, A "ONE STEP BEYOND" PROGRAM UNDER WAY IN EUROPE INAUGURATING A
NEW INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE SCHEME FOR EARTH OBSERVATION.

Abstract

Several programme for Earth observation are under ways with cheaper, lighter and more and more agile systems. Large use of existing Internet capacity is now considered leading to ground systems getting easier to conceive. This was announced at IAF conference Hyderabad in 2007(*) and is now largely utilised by programs combining several small satellite to the benefit of a larger coverage.

The "one step beyond" issue of this evolution is launched by the private company "Blue Planet" in view of collecting weekly the full planet at submetric resolution that will take place on a novel International co-operative paradigm. For the sake of performance the retained organisation will not be associated to task or funding sharing but a virtualized sharing of functionalities mixing technical and system design on a world-wide basis .

The new program underway code-name: v-GLOBE is inspired from a long term intellectual experience inaugurated in the 70s with the "Meteorological geostationary constellation" in which US, European and Japanese effort were conceptually necessary to cover the full Earth. Very surprisingly the new constellation as contemplated by Blue Planet will inaugurate a private-based equivalent aiming at covering the full Earth continuously that can be called: "Cooperation by virtualised system sharing". In such a novel scheme , the cooperation is associated to both space and ground systems to put together technical resources shared in a common but fully virtual CLOUD based environment spreaded all over the planet. The presentation will , for the first time in a public audience , reveal the new scope of this under-way International cooperation and how this new private venture including not only Europe but other international actors will work. Not only the overall system paradigm will be commented but also the technical reasons that are leading to such an imperative "distributed" Cooperative scheme.

(*)ref :IAC-07-B1.I.02