EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
Earth Observation Applications and Economic Benefits (5)

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EO APPLICATIONS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE (UCH): RESULTS OF THE EU FP7 ITACA (INNOVATION TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR COASTAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES) PROJECT

Abstract

This paper reports the developments carried out within the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) ITACA (Innovation Technologies and Applications for Coastal Archaeological sites) project, that aims to prove a web-based management system for underwater archaeological sites in coastal regions. It combines the most advanced techniques of high resolution satellite images elaboration, using both radar and optical data, with processing algorithms integrated into the Web GIS. All the technologies are optimized for archaeological uses, thus enabling the provision of a location and monitoring service specifically devoted to underwater archaeological sites in coastal zones.

The paper depicts the main building blocks of ITACA service, that has now arrived to its final phase , from the scientific advances in algorithms and processing software, to the web GIS tool specifically tailored to the archaeologists needs. Furthermore, it reports the new service model and related business plan, more suitable for service delivery via the web.

ITACA involves the contribution of end users, represented by the Hellenic Institute of Marine Archaeology (I.EN.A.E.) and Sicily Region/Soprintendenza del Mare, in order to include their specific needs, as end users, and to demonstrate the service in two test areas, one in Greece and the other in Italy.

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