

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

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COSMO-SKYMED OPEN CALL: RESULTS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR OF ACTIVITY

Abstract

With the aim to promote the enhancement of existing applications or the development of new technologies and algorithms based on Earth Observation (EO) information, continuing at the same time to promote the exploitation of the COSMO-SkyMed mission (CSK) in the civilian domain, the Italian Space Agency (ASI) issued, on February 2015, two calls: an "Open Call for Science" addressed to the National and International Scientific Community and an "Open Call for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)" addressed to the national SMEs (including start-ups, spin-offs). It is well known that, due to the dual use feature of the system, COSMO-SkyMed data access is regulated by means of an appropriate and well-defined Data Policy and the users are classified mainly in two separate domains: civilian domain and defence domain. In the civilian domain, users can be both institutional and commercial. The first ones include national and international Administrations, Agencies, Ministries, Universities, Research Centres, etc. and they are managed and coordinated directly by ASI under the signature of specific agreements. The second ones are managed by e-Geos, an ASI - Telespazio company, which is the commercial provider of CSK products. For both Calls the opportunity to submit a proposal is permanently open and the selected projects are supported through the provision of a CSK data set free of charge. The Open Call for Science is addressed to the institutional users community and can obtain a maximum of 100 scenes, 80% coming from CSK data archive and maximum 20% from new acquisitions. The Open Call for SMEs is dedicated to the National community with the aim to promote the development of innovative services. In this case a maximum of 100 scenes from both CSK data archive and new acquisitions are allowed. So far ASI received close than 70 proposals related to new projects. This paper is focused on the status and results achieved by ASI through the mentioned calls, considering statistics related to users, coun-

tries, thematic areas, geographical areas of interest, sensor modes, etc. The contribution provided by the COSMO-SkyMed mission in supporting the science community in different areas of research (e.g. Disaster Management, Earth Science, Environmental Monitoring, etc.) are also emphasized.