

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

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EUROPEAN UNION'S INITIATIVES TO FOSTER COPERNICUS USER AND MARKET UPTAKE

Abstract

As the Copernicus programme has recently moved from a research to an operational phase, it has become increasingly necessary to implement measures that will maximize the socio-economic benefits of the EU's investment. The space infrastructure is being put in place, and the volume of data from Copernicus is expected to grow dramatically in the coming years (over 8 TB/day). The key challenge is now to turn this large volume of data into an opportunity for public authorities and businesses in Europe. Thus, we need to establish a real internal market for innovative space-based services and ensure maximum uptake by different user groups. Public authorities have a central role to play in the Copernicus value chain, notably by supporting research and innovation; providing harmonized public services to all EU citizens; driving demand (the public sector still represents 65% of the socio-economic benefits of the programme cannot be achieved; however, be without a significant involvement of the private sector. Because of their profit-seeking drive, their greater agility and their easier access to market information, businesses could support the uptake of Copernicus by developing tailor-made applications for specific users; reaching out to new users, communities and sectors; reducing the costs and increasing the benefits of existing applications; and selling products in international markets. This paper will illustrate the strategy of the Commission to promote Copernicus user and market uptake.