

Outcomes from the meeting of organizations involved in satellite-based emergency mapping

Place: Joint Research Center, Ispra, Italy

Dates: 16-17.4.2012

List of participants:

JRC	Guido Lemoine, Jan Kucera, Marco Broglia, Mayeul Kauffmann, Christina Corbane, Peter Spruyt, Tom De Groeve, Delilah Al-Kudhairy
USGS	Brenda Jones
GEO-GEOSS	Francesco Gaetani
UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER	Lorant Czaran
SERVIR	Nate Smith
DLR-ZKI	Stephan Voigt
Athena Global	Andrew Eddy
SERTIT/UDS	Stephen Clandillon, Arnaud Durnad
ITHACA	Fabio Giulio Tonolo
AIT/Sentinel Asia	Jan Kucera on behalf of Masahiko Nagai

Adoption of name of the group

The official name of the group was decided to be:

“International Working Group on satellite based emergency mapping”

Vision

Following vision statement was agreed:

“Supporting disaster response by improving international cooperation in satellite based emergency mapping”

Mission

Following mission statement was formulated:

“Establish best practices between operational satellite-based emergency mapping programs to stimulate communication and collaboration to include definition of map product generation guidelines, coordination of expertise and capacities, building of training curriculum, participation in common exercises, and reviewing relevant technical standards and protocols. Work with the appropriate organizations to define professional standards for emergency mapping.”

Meetings

It was suggested that the group should meet twice a year during one plenary meeting and one technical meeting. The plenary meetings will focus on organizational and strategic development, while the technical meetings will focus on particular technical problems and their solutions.

The next meeting is suggested to be held on 9-10 October 2012 in Washington in conjunction with ICCM.

Chair

It was agreed that a rotating chair should be established. The period of rotation will be determined at the next plenary meeting. It was agreed that it should be, at least, 6 months or more. The first chairing period was entrusted to JRC.

Near future actions

1. Forum and documents sharing. JRC will set-up the CMS for forum discussions and document sharing. Nothing complicated and time consuming. The CMS forum will serve as a reference platform, for exchanging ideas and sharing information. The basic information, vision and mission of the group will be displayed.
2. Regular teleconferences. Once a month a teleconference will be organized (in the second week of the month, around 12 UTC). The aim of TCs is to keep updated about the group development and evaluate relevant events where cooperation was evident or lacking (lessons learnt). Various platforms were suggested (skype, WebEX, video-conferencing, phone conference).
3. Next meeting. The next meeting is suggested for 9-10 October 2012 in Washington in conjunction with ICCM. The USGS will confirm whether it is possible for them to organize it. The meeting will be rather plenary than technical.
4. Invitation to other organizations. The following organizations were thought to be relevant and should be part of the group. The official invitation will be sent to them. The most appropriate points of contacts should be suggested for plenary and technical discussions. They are:

UNITAR-UNOSAT, Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.unitar.org/unosat>

PDC, Maui, Hawaii, US, <http://www.pdc.org>

CONAE, Buenos Aires, Argentina, www.conae.gov.ar

NASRDA, Abuja, Nigeria, <http://www.nasrda.gov.ng>

OFDA, (http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance)

NCDR - NDRCC, China?????

GEOScience, Australia (<http://www.ga.gov.au>)

Darhmouth Laboratory (suggested by JRC later).

Participation is open to all organisations active in operational satellite-based emergency mapping, which identify with the scope of the group.

5. It will be beneficial to the group to understand related activities under other initiatives (e.g. CEOS, GEO, UN-SPIDER). Representatives of these organisations are already part of the group. The group will have a strong focus on technical and operational issues, and needs to understand who the relevant contact points are in the respective organisations.

6. GDACS. The GDACS platform and VOSOCC community were found very relevant to the activity. The recently announced Satellite Coordination Mapping System component of GDACS could not be analysed during the workshop (registration was not working). Further discussion on how the functionality and outreach of GDACS can be used for the group was encouraged.
7. Rules of Procedures and Terms of Reference. It was agreed to set up Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference. This will define the working mode of the group (including membership, chairing, meetings, etc.) JRC will prepare the first draft following examples of similar groups within JRC and discuss them during the teleconferences and during next meeting.

Further considerations

8. A number of technical issues were brought up during the meeting (see agenda), following suggestions at the inauguration meeting in Hohenkammer (September 2011). Not all items could be discussed in detail, and some require further review and possibly testing in future scenarios. At future technical meeting, topics may be prepared by a number of group members for detailed discussions.
9. One technical issue is about the protocols to exchange relevant messages about the activations of each of the mechanisms (e.g. International Charter, SERVIR, Sentinel Asia, GIO-EMS). This ties in closely with the discussion on the GDACS SMCS mechanism. The use of the (new) OGC-SPS standard was proposed by UN-SPIDER. JRC proposed that messaging should not only include identification of the area of interest of the activations, but also details planned product generation, progress messages, etc. This could even include pre-alerts for use in pro-active satellite tasking.
10. The use of GLIDE numbers was discussed. The current mechanism to request a GLIDE number was reviewed. The group recognised the adoption of the GLIDE numbering as a de facto standard, but suggested improvements to the application and moderation process, for instance, to make it an open standard. The criteria to decide whether a GLIDE number is relevant to a particular event may need to be defined in more detail as well.
11. The need for common standards and quality references was discussed at several occasions. In this context, also the need to interface with crowd sourcing communities, e.g. for reference data and emergency related tasking was identified. UN-SPIDER will continue a series of meetings on this topic, to which the group may contribute.