

## In This Edition

- Space Strategy
- Member news
- BARSC AGM

## VHR forum

A BARSC forum, titled '*Very High Resolution Imagery - does it deliver?*', will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004 at the DTI Conference Centre, 1 Victoria Street, London (9.30am-4pm).

For some years very high resolution (VHR) satellite imagery has been available for almost any part of the Earth. The number of VHR sensors in orbit is increasing, as is the level of detail available in the products. Digital image layers from aerial photography are now a standard information source in government and commercial services including cartographic products.

The programme will review the benefits and problems associated with acquiring and using VHR imagery – both airborne and satellite.

Attendance is free, and includes lunch, but advance registration is essential. For more information or to register, contact [jane@jete.co.uk](mailto:jane@jete.co.uk) detailing your name, affiliation and contact details.

### Correspondence and contributions:

Matthew Stuttard  
LogicaCMG Ltd  
Chaucer House, The Office Park  
Springfield Drive  
Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7LP  
[matthew.stuttard@logicacmg.com](mailto:matthew.stuttard@logicacmg.com)



# New UK Space Strategy

## 2003-2006 and beyond: space for science, enterprise and environment

The new UK Space Strategy, published in January, represents a high level statement of the UK's aims in space, bringing together the aims of the various partners that make up BNSC. It is based around three objectives:

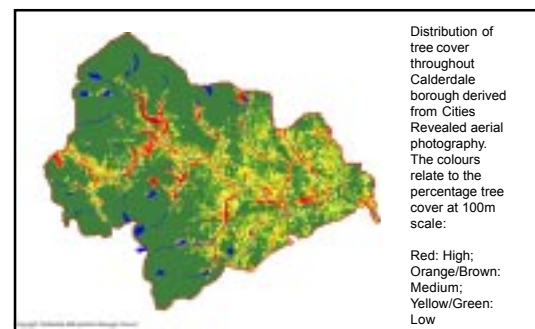
- enhancing the UK's standing in astronomy, planetary and environmental sciences
- stimulating increased productivity through promoting the use of space in government, science and commerce
- developing innovative space technologies and systems to deliver sustainable improvements in quality of life

Unlike its predecessor, the strategy has little in terms of key targets and contains little financial information. Such information is expected in the respective space plans or strategies of the BNSC component organisations. The DTI 'Space Plan' was assessed by the DTI Investment Committee on February 4th 2004, with business plans to establish priorities and funding methods coming thereafter. NERC has recently put its Earth Observation strategy through a public consultation.

Anyone in the UK with an interest in Earth observation should obtain a copy of this strategy - it will form the basis of the way we do business with BNSC over the next 3 years. It can be downloaded as a pdf from the BNSC website ([www.bnsc.gov.uk](http://www.bnsc.gov.uk)), and ordered as hardcopy from the publications area of the DTI website ([www.dti.gov.uk](http://www.dti.gov.uk)).

## Woodland habitats revealed

The Countryside and Forestry Unit at Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, West Yorkshire, is now using Cities Revealed™ high-resolution aerial photography, supplied by The GeoInformation Group™, as a tool within its woodland management strategy.



The Unit, responsible for drawing up and implementing management plans for the sustainable development of moorlands and un-maintained open space, as well as the Council's stock of 40,000 trees, acquired Cities Revealed's digital aerial photography to gain a clearer understanding of habitats in the context of the surrounding landscape. The photography, which is captured at 12.5 cm resolution for the 40 sq km area, provides a high level of visual ground detail for accurate identification and plotting of all the trees throughout the district. These plots are heavily relied upon within the justification of proposed management and woodland development work, particularly in securing funding.

## RSAC wins Channel Dynamics project

Remote Sensing Applications Ltd., a long-standing BARSC member, has been selected by BNSC to conduct the latest Government Information From the Space Sector (GIFTSS) opportunity contract, 'Morecambe Bay Channel Dynamics'. BNSC is currently working with Lancaster City Council (LCC) on a joint implementation test project, under the BNSC GIFTSS Programme.

The project will assess if a series of satellite-based (radar) images of Morecambe Bay at low water could cost-effectively provide the required macro view of the positions and dynamics over time of the low water channels. It is intended that the information would be used in conjunction with the existing records, including orthorectified aerial photography and hydrographic data. The project is jointly funded and managed by BNSC and LCC and is part of BNSC's ongoing commitment to promote the increased usage of Earth Observation in government.

## RSI develops EPS analysis tools

The European branch of RSI's Global Services Group is developing DAM (Data Analysis and Monitor), a subsystem of the Calibration & Validation Facility (CVF) for the EUMETSAT Polar System (EPS) as subcontract of ACS (Advanced Computer System). EUMETSAT is an intergovernmental organisation created through an international convention agreed by 18 European Member States.

The CVF will be used to support the instrument calibration for the instruments on board the METOP satellites and the validation of the products extracted centrally by the EPS Core Ground Segment (CSG). The DAM functionality functions provided by RSI will provide a set of tools to enable the analysis and hence the monitoring of all the EPS products generated by the CSG.

## LogicaCMG wins GOCE contract

LogicaCMG has been selected to produce the basic scientific products from the high accuracy GPS receiver onboard ESA's GOCE satellite. The mission objective is to provide unique models of the Earth's gravity field and of its equipotential reference surface, as represented by the geoid, on a global scale with high-spatial resolution and to very high accuracy. LogicaCMG will deliver a high accuracy GPS processing system within the Payload Data System for which ACS is prime contractor.

## TerraSAR Exploitation Review

Infoterra Ltd is closely involved with the newly awarded ESA contract, 'TerraSAR Exploitation and Service Infrastructure Consolidation'.

The project aims to highlight and consolidate methods to provide an infrastructure for a sustainable, reliable, available and cost efficient provision of modern Earth Observation-based geoinformation services.

Existing service infrastructure will be analysed and new cost effective scenarios for European service will be identified. Service partnerships and the delivery of TerraSAR-X and TerraSAR-L play a key role in the project.

## Geographic information service, led by Infoterra, will support Humanitarian Aid effort

An ESA contract focusing on Humanitarian Aid support has been awarded to Infoterra Ltd, in cooperation with 12 European partners. The project aims to provide an integrated geographic information service, along with its architecture, to all concerned parties responding to humanitarian crises in the developing world. This will encompass NGOs, national governments and supra-national agencies, including the European Commission.

The project includes partners currently involved with in-sector service provision, along with other service providers able to add production capacity in support of wider user uptake, to form an Open Service Partnership with future expansion possibilities. The project will run for 20 months.

## BARSC AGM

DTI Conference Centre,  
1 Victoria St, London.  
4pm, 24 March 2004

The AGM will follow the VHR forum, and all member companies are invited to attend.

## Impact crater recognition software

LogicaCMG has won a contract with the European Space Agency (ESA) to develop software that automatically recognises craters on Earth caused by the impact of large meteorites, asteroids and comets.

LogicaCMG will prototype algorithms that can efficiently detect and recognize impact craters in satellite imagery, and will test the algorithms and tools on a region of the world not yet subjected to an exhaustive search for impact craters.



Gosses Bluff crater, Australia, detected by the LogicaCMG algorithm in space shuttle photography.