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Altimetry WORKSHOP

BARSC is holding a workshop on 'Requirements for Satellite Altimetry' on Tuesday, November 26th at the Linnean Society, in London.

The programme will be structured around different communities of users, and will include subjects such as Ocean Topography, Ocean Waves, Meteorological Forecasting and Operational Applications as well as related Missions.

Booking details will be distributed in the near future. For further information, please contact Tom Allan at Satellite Observing Systems.

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Annual Luncheon

BARSC were fortunate that Professor Jose Achache, incoming head of Earth Observation at ESA, was able to accept an invitation to address this year's annual luncheon meeting, and we were delighted to extend participation to BNSC's Earth Observation Programme Board Members as well. This was a unique opportunity for BARSC and EOPB to mingle and for many to speak informally with Prof. Achache in addition to hearing more formally his initial views on the current status of ESA's Earthwatch programme. The meeting was opportune in view of the recent launch of Envisat and the impending first actions on GMES, and it was on these issues that Prof. Achache focussed, especially User Involvement and Business Models as the keys to sustainability of Earth Observation Programmes. Prof. Achache was able to answer a number of questions from the floor in a very positive way, particularly in the light of the expected GMES budget, and we can be optimistic that he will champion the cause of Earth Observation with passion.

Innovation focus for BNSC

BNSC is a partnership of government departments and research councils, lead by the DTI. Following a review of its priorities and structure last year, the DTI part of BNSC has been moved from the Business Competitiveness Group within the DTI into a newly formed "Innovation group". The innovation group's aim is to "*work with partners to deliver a business environment that is the best in the world for encouraging business and individuals to turn knowledge and ideas into value*".

Initially this should not change the day-to-day working of BNSC.

Longer term may well see some changes in the strategy and focus of BNSC driven by this aim, as well as changes related to how funding is prioritised across the group.

More information can be found on the DTI and BNSC websites (dti.gov.uk, bnscc.gov.uk).

SMS Programme

BNSC has selected ESYS as its Management Agent for the 2nd round of the Service Mission Support (SMS) Programme. The submission date for the AO has been extended to 8th November. Recent clarifications regarding funding for SME's have been posted on the BNSC web site.

British Festival of Space

Organisers of Festival would welcome contributions from BARSC members

BARSC have been kept informed of a 'Space Festival' to be held at the University of Surrey from 10th – 12th July next year.

The first day of this 3-day event is devoted to Business. In the morning, presentations on UK projects such as Beagle-2 (Colin Pilinger), Galileo (Astrium) and Cryosat are scheduled, together with a review of current space policy within BNSC. The afternoon is given over to debates and discussions on the future of remote sensing.

The second day is devoted to careers, tours and a 'Youth Vision for Space' competition, involving schools and colleges.

The third day, Saturday, is open to the public with a number of side-shows, a rocketry workshop, school activities and the 'local band playing space themes'.

The organisers have consulted one or two BARSC members for advice on sponsorship, themes etc. If anyone has a contribution to make, or would like to help, the email of the organiser is anitaheward@yahoo.co.uk.

She would like to hear from you.

Envisat Data News

The phase-in time for Envisat ASAR and MERIS1b products has started for non cal/val users, and ESA ESRIN has begun to contact AO projects to request that they submit their data requirements to them.

MEMBERS NEWS RELEASES

Cities Revealed Delivers On-line Aerial Photography Directly into GIS

The GeoInformation Group® recently announced the release of CR Connect™, a new hosted on-line service bringing low cost access to Cities Revealed™ aerial photography. CR Connect is the first on-line facility providing UK aerial photography directly into a GIS with free-of-charge browsing and viewing capabilities.

CR Connect enables the user to browse and preview watermarked imagery for free within their GIS project and then download the full quality data via a subscription basis, only paying for the data that is required. It provides immediate access to the entire Cities Revealed archive containing 120 UK towns

and cities of geo-referenced aerial photography available at 600 x 600 pixels down to 12.5cm resolution.

After installing the CR Connect extension software, three buttons are added to the user's GIS toolbar. With one simple click, the aerial photography archive is automatically queried to determine whether imagery is available for the project area. The image will be downloaded directly into the project window enabling the user to zoom and pan the image until the desired location is found. The image can then be saved within the project complete with world file, tab file or similar geo-referenced file.

CR Connect has been created in partnership with Globexplorer, a leading technology company that distributes aerial photos via the Internet. The credibility of Globexplorer's high-speed proprietary technology coupled with The GeoInformation Group's renowned high resolution aerial imagery archive provides CR Connect users with the most flexible, low cost access to the best possible imagery on the market.

A trial version is available for free on-line and can be downloaded from www.ceworld.co.uk