

Space for Civil Protection Workshop

Practical Organisation

- Date: 5 – 6 May 2011
- Location: European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)
Schwarzenbergplatz 6, Vienna, Austria

ESPI

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) provides decision-makers with an informed view on mid- to longterm issues relevant to Europe's space activities. In this context, ESPI acts as an independent platform for developing positions and strategies.

ESPI was created by a decision of the Council of the European Space Agency (ESA). It is an Association under Austrian law, established in Vienna by the European Space Agency ESA and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) in November 2003. Today, ESPI is the leading space policy think tank in Europe.

ESPI has been tasked with the function as a so called Ambassador Platform for the ESA Integrated Applications Promotion (IAP) programme for the Central and Eastern European region. This function comprises in particular the promotion of IAP amongst the various types of stakeholders (e.g. decision-makers, politicians, co-financers, academic and research institutions, service providers, users etc.). ESPI provides support to ESA with its competence as the leading European institution in the field of space policy research. For a number of potential areas in IAP, ESA and ESPI are matching respective competences. ESPI works hand in hand with the ESA IAP awareness team, complementing and supplementing expertise, knowledge, and contacts. One key awareness activity is the organisation of workshops within the CEE region in order to promote IAP to relevant decision-makers and user communities, to define gaps in existing services that can be filled by space assets, and to present new applications and services. An important goal of these workshops is to bring the various users and stakeholders together as well as to inform them about IAP funding possibilities.

Integrated Applications Promotion (IAP) programme

The European Space Agency has initiated the Integrated Applications Promotion (IAP) programme (ARTES 20), a new framework for developing pre-operational services in cooperation with end users and relevant stakeholders. The IAP programme is supporting the development of new applications by utilising and integrating different space assets, resulting in improved or new services for the citizens on a regional, European and global scale. The programme will not push any particular technology, but shall respond to users' needs.

IAP is already active in diverse application fields ranging from energy grid management to aircraft safety, facilitating novel and innovative solutions and services that previously were unimaginable. Integrated applications are thus already benefiting European

industrial competitiveness, while serving the needs of European societies and global communities.

Based on its user-driven nature, the main focus of the IAP programme is to set up relationships with user communities in order to collect their requirements on new (or improved) services and to federate their demand so as to obtain the critical mass to enable sustainable services.

Workshop objectives

During major disasters there are often shortcomings in the quantity and quality of available satellite capacity and relevant services. The need for services arises from the fragmented nature of both demand (structure of civil protection) and supply (the many satellite service providers and systems).

Specifically, Civil Protection (CP) communications systems have more stringent requirements than those available via mass market commercial systems. This results in high costs, problems of interoperability due to lack of standardization, poor mutual awareness of needs and capabilities and inadequate security and quality of service. As a result, a consolidation effort is needed to ensure that the development of new generations of services is in line with the CP environment.

In the frame of the Integrated Application Programme, as part of ESA's Short Term Action Plan on the Use of Satellite Communications to Support Civil Protection, European Civil Protections have identified a short list of areas requiring strong and immediate action. The creation of a mechanism to federate CP users' demand and articulate their requirements is deemed of extreme relevance.

The CP agencies have clearly articulated both the desirability and the feasibility of improving their efficiency through better co-ordination at European level. This would lead not only to improved interoperability and operational effectiveness but also to increased demand for satellite equipment and services, which would in turn bring about improved supply.

The present workshop will reflect preliminary activities as well as the results of the ESA short term action plan for the European Civil Protection. It offers a great possibility for operational people from the Civil Protection community to present key examples of lessons learnt experience from past disasters. Furthermore, it will reflect the strategies and perspectives of several countries and CP agencies. The workshop aims at identifying the way forward and setting up a roadmap for further activities, together with the Civil Protection community.

The workshop is held under the auspices of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior. It will have a special focus on the needs of Central and Eastern European countries.

Expected outcomes

- Preliminary identification of key focal areas as follow-on of previous ESA IAP activities, in improving the overall operational capabilities of European civil protection agencies through the use of satellite communication based services.
- Preparation of the elements to set up a roadmap for generating space-based user driven activities of direct benefit for the European Civil Protection.
- ESPI Report which contains an inventory of the current situation and users' needs. The report will analyse problems with currently used services and the demand for new innovative services for civil protection as well as the need to provide an adequate regulatory framework in this field.

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