

GAF AG to support distribution of ERSDAC PALSAR L-Band SAR data - enhancing capabilities in mapping and monitoring

Munich, October 12, 2007.

GAF AG, an international active geo-information technology company located in Munich, Germany, has entered into an assistance agreement with Earth Remote Sensing Data Analysis Center (ERSDAC) for distributing PALSAR products effective from July 2007 at very competitive cost. ERS ERSDAC PALSAR L-band data provides full polarimetric L-band SAR capabilities to a wide range of applications, like monitoring forest biomass, soil moisture, rock properties, ocean waves and many others. GAF AG will provide all the necessary support in searching for, assessing and selecting PALSAR and other Geo-Data according to the customer's specific needs.

Earth Observation Imagery is acquired by a large number of sensors and cameras, which are mounted on various air-borne and space-borne systems. Each application requires an accurate selection of practical data sources and individual datasets. PALSAR Products are produced at ERSDAC PALSAR Ground Data Systems (PALSAR GDS) from the observed raw data acquired by the Phased Array type L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (PALSAR) onboard ALOS ("Daichi", launched on January 24, 2006), and they are offered in various product types. The continuously growing fleet of space-borne radar systems like PALSAR can provide an important additional value to the customer, by complementing the optical systems not only with their cloud penetrating capabilities. Detailed analysis of the backscattering coefficients of the full polarimetric L-band SAR system will in addition allow a level of information extraction, which further extends the possibilities of existing and future C- and X-band systems. This enhances efficiency and accuracy in a wide range of applications, like monitoring forest biomass, soil moisture, rock properties, ocean waves and many others

"GAF is very pleased to support the distribution of ERSDAC PALSAR L-band data, which will certainly be of greatest value and interest to our customers" states Dr. Peter Volk, CEO of GAF AG, and continues: "Our customer service will provide all the necessary support in searching for, assessing and selecting PALSAR and other Geo-Data according to the customer's specific needs."

About ERSDAC: www.palsar.ersdac.org.jp

Earth Remote Sensing Data Analysis Center (ERSDAC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 under the guidance of METI (Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), and conducting research and development for applications of remote sensing to natural resources exploration and environmental monitoring.

PALSAR (Phased Array type L-band SAR) onboard ALOS was developed by METI and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency). ERSDAC developed and now operates PALSAR Ground Data System for processing and distribution of PALSAR products. ERSDAC also has been operating ASTER Ground Data System to arrange data acquisition schedule of ASTER onboard Terra as well as process and distribute ASTER data.

About GAF: www.gaf.de

GAF, a private sector enterprise is part of the Telespazio group of companies. The company was founded in 1985 and offers a broad range of geospatial applications, including geodata procurement, image processing, software development, and consulting services. With its subsidiary EUROMAP, GAF AG is the leading German company with outstanding competence and expertise in applied remote sensing and spatial information systems for domestic and European markets. GAF AG offers a comprehensive portfolio of services ranging from supply of geo-data (e.g. satellite and aerial imagery, digital elevation models), and spatial information services (e.g. image processing, thematic mapping, GIS/DBMS applications and software development). The company with a current workforce of more than 100 highly skilled staff has an extensive track record of various geo-information projects throughout the globe in the fields of agriculture, forestry, environment, infrastructure, geology and land management.

To obtain more information, please contact:

GAF AG
Dr. Sebastian Carl
Tel. +49 (0) 89 12 15 28 0
www.gaf.de
info@gaf.de