

**Europe-wide air quality monitoring and forecasting**  
**GAF and partners set to develop “obsAIRve – observe the air and provide service”**  
**on behalf of the European Commission**

**Munich, Germany, 10.01.2011**

**GAF AG has been awarded a contract by the European Commission to develop “obsAIRve”. In its role as consortium leader, this project will involve GAF together with the partners T-Systems, German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the Umweltbundesamt (Austria) designing and developing a new air quality system for the European public. It will provide the first sustainable Europe-wide service for air quality monitoring and forecasting supporting the European “Global Monitoring for Environment and Security” (GMES) initiative. This project will serve the European citizen with comprehensible information products tailored to his needs.**

Air pollution directly affects the health and quality of life of human beings – on local, regional and global levels. Hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each year in Europe are caused by fine particles in the air. In addition air pollution is responsible for the formation of harmful trace gases like ozone (the so called summer smog) and can cause acid rain.

Monitoring and forecasting of air quality are essential for the prevention and avoidance of risks, as well as for the provision of warnings. Reliable air quality forecasts covering periods of up to 3 days are now possible by combining satellite based and in situ observation data using statistical computations and numerical models. “obsAIRve” will apply results obtained from Europe’s superior air quality forecast systems. This will ensure one uniform European air quality service providing real-time and user-friendly data across Europe.

The main intended user groups are citizens, the health and leisure sector as well as public authorities. “obsAIRve” will disseminate air quality information via dedicated web portals and mobile applications using T-Systems ICT infrastructure. The information will enrich existing services such as weather and environmental portals. Additionally, individual notifications will be available to specific user groups on request. This enables people at risk to behave according to environmental conditions.

“obsAIRve” intends to bridge the gap between research results of GMES related projects and the European public. The awareness of the citizens for environmental issues and activities of the European Commission shall be increased by setting up dedicated marketing campaigns at the European level.

“obsAIRve” is part of the European “GMES” initiative. The project will initially be financed by the European Commission as a pilot project for a period of three years.

**Project-Partners:****Consortium:**

- **GAF AG (Germany)**, an e-GEOS company, is globally active and has an international reputation as a competent provider of project design, management and implementation services in the fields of geo-information, satellite remote sensing and spatial IT consultancy to private and public clients. Over the past 25 years, GAF has been active in more than 100 countries throughout Europe, Africa, South-America and Asia. More on GAF: [www.gaf.de](http://www.gaf.de)
- **German Aerospace Center (DLR)** is responsible for all of Germany's space related activities, including satellite launching, data reception and the carrying out of research at the forefront of modern space based technology. Through its German Remote Sensing Data Centre, DLR offers cutting edge climate and atmospheric products and related services. For more details please refer to the websites: [www.dlr.de/eoc](http://www.dlr.de/eoc) and [wdc.dlr.de](http://wdc.dlr.de)
- **Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria)** will participate as a partner from the institutional sector. It will provide its expertise in the fields of air quality and the assessment of human health. Its long experience in GMES-related projects, especially regarding user and stakeholder inclusion and communication, will also add value to the project. More on Umweltbundesamt: [www.umweltbundesamt.at](http://www.umweltbundesamt.at)
- **T-Systems:** Drawing on a global infrastructure of data centers and networks, T-Systems operates information and communication technology (ICT) systems for multinational corporations and public sector institutions and provides integrated solutions for the networked future of business and society. Some 45,300 employees at T-Systems combine industry expertise with ICT innovations to add significant value to customers' core business all over the world. The corporate customers unit generated revenue of around EUR 8.8 billion in the 2009 financial year. [www.t-systems.com](http://www.t-systems.com)

**Supporting Partners:**

- **Info-Logika (Bulgaria)**
- **AIRPARIF (France)**
- **DCMR (The Netherlands)**
- **EGMASA (Spain)**
- **Mobility Service Agency for the City of Rome (Italy)**

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