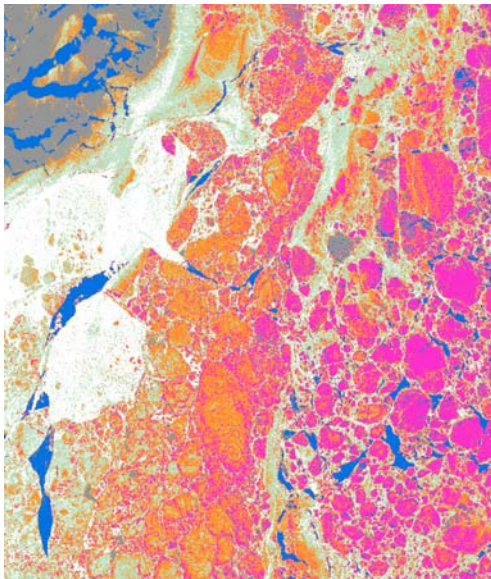




# Earth & Environment Newsletter



## Canada and Finland: Collaborating on Earth-Observation Projects



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Canada and Finland: Collaborating on Earth-Observation Projects \(suite\)](#)
- [Join the mission - AfricaGIS 2005](#)
- [GeoConnections: Funding renewed](#)
- [6<sup>th</sup> ASAR Workshop on November 15-17, 2005](#)
- [TIGER Roundtable – Project coordination meeting in Canada](#)
- [TIGER-Innovators - A new ESA call for proposals](#)
- [Space Technology Forum in December 2005](#)

EOADP Project by Macdonald Dettwiler Titled: Multi-Polarization SAR for Operational Sea Ice Monitoring

Canadian space companies and their industry partners from Finland have been selected to develop four remote-sensing projects through a unique international partnership that will promote the commercial potential of satellite products and services for both Canada and Finland.

The Earth observation projects will be developed through a Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and National Technology Agency of Finland (Tekes) Memorandum of Understanding. Signed in 2003, the agreement facilitates cooperation in satellite remote sensing, helping consolidate space-based technological and economic development opportunities between the two nations.

"This novel scientific and commercial collaboration will help both Canada and Finland better understand and monitor our shared northern environment, while fostering sustainable development and enhancing disaster monitoring and ice surveillance for marine navigation," said CSA President Marc Garneau.

[Continued](#)



## 1- CANADA AND FINLAND: COLLABORATING ON EARTH-OBSERVATION PROJECTS (SUITE)

The projects were chosen through the CSA's Earth Observation Applications Development Program (EOADP) in coordination with the Tekes' Business Opportunities from Space Technology Program (AVALI) of Finland. The projects will use Earth-observation data from one or a combination of images from Canada's RADARSAT or Europe's ENVISAT, ERS-1 and ERS-2 satellites as the significant data source for the development of applications to support sustainable development, disaster mitigation and navigation of vessels in the dangerous icy waters of the north.

Canada and Finland enjoy an excellent space cooperation relationship. While currently focused in the Earth-observation sector, there are many opportunities to work together through European Space Agency programs and other international initiatives. Canada and Finland contribute to the Swedish ODIN satellite for ozone monitoring, and are exploring further collaboration in atmospheric sciences, including a follow-on to ODIN. Both nations also participate in the Northern View initiative, a "one-stop shop" concept for northern Earth-observation applications within Europe's Global Monitoring of Environment and Security (GMES) program.

A backgrounder on the adopted projects is available to the following address:

<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/media/backgrounders/2005/0602.asp>

## 2- JOIN THE MISSION



The conference will be held from 31 October to 4 November 2005.

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and the Earth Sciences Sector (ESS) of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) will lead a Canada Trade Mission to the AfricaGIS 2005 Conference in Pretoria, South Africa from October 31 to November 4, 2005.

The mission's purpose is to promote Canadian EO technologies to an untapped market that requires space-derived EO technologies to support development goals on a continental, regional and national basis. It also aims to facilitate collaboration between Canadian and South African organizations in science and technology, and to help establish a Canadian contribution that responds to the needs and priorities of African countries within the context of the CSA Strategy for Africa and the CSA participation to the TIGER initiative.

Participating delegates will meet government officials from countries across Africa, representatives from International Financial Institutions, regional and international organizations as well as earth observation and geo-information professionals. Participants will be able to arrange one-on-one meetings with representatives of government agencies, private sector officials and academia to elaborate on possible business opportunities. Companies are also invited to exhibit in the Canadian pavilion at a five-day Technical and Project Exhibition to be run concurrently with the conference.

Space may be limited and you are encouraged to contact ESS or CSA officials as soon as possible to join this mission. The sooner you get on board, the more input you will have, as we would like to organize Canadian-led workshops as part of the Official conference program!!!

For more information on the conference, please visit: [www.africagis2005.org.za](http://www.africagis2005.org.za)



For more information on the mission: [http://ess.nrcan.gc.ca/intl/intl\\_activities/af/gis2005/index\\_e.php](http://ess.nrcan.gc.ca/intl/intl_activities/af/gis2005/index_e.php)

For more information on the mission, please contact:

Denis Auger  
Canadian Space Agency  
Tel.: (450) 926-4440  
E-mail: [denis.auger@space.gc.ca](mailto:denis.auger@space.gc.ca)

Denis Haché  
Natural Resources Canada  
Tel.: (613) 947-2467  
E-mail: [dhache@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:dhache@nrcan.gc.ca)

Omar Allam  
Natural Resources Canada  
Tel.: (613) 943-8958  
Email: [oallam@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:oallam@nrcan.gc.ca)

### 3- GEOCONNECTIONS: FUNDING RENEWED

Source: [GeoConnections](#)



GeoConnections' logo

The Government of Canada has renewed its commitment to providing access to high-quality maps, satellite images and related data and technologies. John Efford, Minister of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), announced on June 16<sup>th</sup> that the Government of Canada has allocated \$60 million in its 2005 budget for a second, five-year phase of GeoConnections, a national partnership initiative led by NRCan to make Canada's geospatial databases, applications and services readily accessible on-line.

GeoConnections supports the day-to-day application of geomatics — the science and technology of collecting, managing and using geospatial information. This information about the geography, people, environment and natural resources of a country promotes sound decision making in economic, environmental and social priorities.

"GeoConnections contributes to our high quality of life by helping us understand the world around us through geomatics," said Minister Efford during a forum organized by the Geomatics Industry Association of Canada. "The Government of Canada will continue to invest in GeoConnections so that Canadians can make better decisions on issues that are important to them — public health, public safety, the environment and sustainable development, and the well-being of Aboriginal communities."

The initial GeoConnections program was established in 1999 to provide Canadians with access to consolidated location-based information through the Internet. The internationally recognized partnership program focused on developing the policies, standards, technologies and partnerships needed to build the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI). It also advanced Canada as a world leader in developing, delivering and using on-line geospatial information.



The second phase of GeoConnections will improve how Canadians can use and benefit from the CGDI, particularly in the fields of public health and safety, sustainable development and the environment. It will also focus on using the CGDI to address issues of importance to Aboriginal communities.

Further information on GeoConnections is available at [www.geoconnections.org](http://www.geoconnections.org).

## 4- 6<sup>TH</sup> ASAR WORKSHOP ON NOVEMBER 15-17, 2005



6<sup>th</sup> ASAR Workshop's logo that will be hold at the Canadian Space Agency

The Advanced SAR Workshop is organized biennially by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) to review progress on synthetic aperture radar (SAR) technology. Canada is very active in the field of SAR with its national program, RADARSAT, and its participation in the ESA Earth Observation program.

Initiated in 1997, the Advanced SAR Workshop's success prompted the CSA to open the event to international participation in 1999, expressing the Canadian SAR Community's desire to collaborate with its foreign partners. The fifth workshop in 2003 gathered 180 registered participants and 94 speakers. Participants represented leaders, developers, and end-users in both the private and public sectors.

This year, the Advanced SAR Workshop 2005 will be held November 15, 16 and 17, 2005 at the Canadian Space Agency's Conference Centre in Saint-Hubert (Longueuil), Quebec.

Suggested topics are:

- Mission Updates
- Upcoming Missions
- New Missions/Concepts
- System Technologies (Antennas, T/R Modules, etc.)
- Polarimetry and Interferometry
- Data Processing
- Emerging Applications

For more information, please visit: <http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/events/2005/asar.asp>.

To organize a special session in the upcoming workshop, please contact:

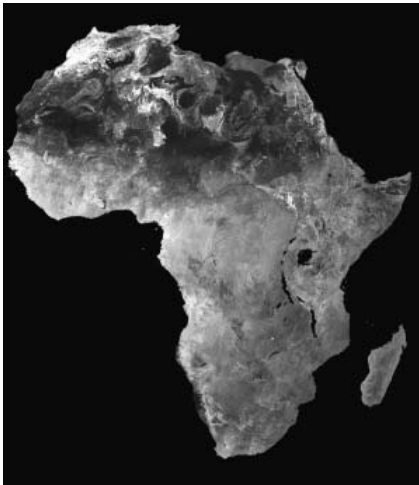
Dr. Ralph Girard  
Canada Space Agency  
Tel.: 450-926-4654  
E-mail: [ralph.girard@space.gc.ca](mailto:ralph.girard@space.gc.ca)

All other inquiries:

Mrs. Josée Gagnon  
Canadian Space Agency  
Tel.: 450-926-4651  
E-mail: [asar2005@space.gc.ca](mailto:asar2005@space.gc.ca)



## 5- TIGER ROUNDTABLE – PROJECT COORDINATION MEETING IN CANADA



Africa mosaic by RADARSAT-1

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) is planning a joint-project kick-off meeting for Canadian project teams awarded contracts under the Earth Observation Application Development Program (EOADP) –TIGER Request for Proposals. The meeting, planned for mid-September at the CSA, will permit the various teams to exchange information and to present their project implementation resources. Teams will be invited to present the context of their project, its objectives, activities, and expected results. In addition, representatives from other groups and space agencies involved in TIGER, as well as specialists in aid and cooperation, will be invited to provide background information and expertise pertinent to the implementation of the projects. Consultations in preparation for this meeting will be held over the next few months.

For more information: <http://www.space.gc.ca/tiger>

## 6- TIGER-INNOVATORS – A NEW ESA CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Source: ESA

In the context of the TIGER initiative, the European Space Agency (ESA) has launched a new Invitation to Tender for a set of small-size projects to be led by organizations based in ESA Member (including Canada) to support the use of EO technology for water resource management in Africa.

Through these projects, (called TIGER-Innovators), bidders shall implement and demonstrate innovative information services that respond to the specific, practical and concrete user needs of African water organisations. To this end, projects shall be carried out through North-South partnerships involving European/Canadian Industry and research groups together with African users (e.g., African remote-sensing centres, African National Environmental Agencies, local service providers).

A maximum of five implementation and demonstration projects will be funded, each with a maximum budget of 100,000 Euro.

For more information, visit: <http://www.esa.int/duet>



## 7- SPACE TECHNOLOGY FORUM IN DECEMBER 2005

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) is planning to host Canada's space technology and applications community at a three-day forum that would take place on December 12-14 in Boucherville, Quebec.

The CSA Technology Forum will follow an expanded format building on previous space industry-focused events hosted by the Agency. Its main purpose is to promote co-operation and create synergy between Canadian stakeholders in the development of priority space technologies and applications, and promote advances in, and practical use of, space technologies and applications recently developed in Canada.

The Forum will include presentations by CSA and other federal government officials, and will give the private sector and academics the opportunity to share the results of their work and learn of the work done by others. Exhibition and demonstration space will be provided and a poster session will be included among the forum activities.

Representatives from industry, universities, research centres and non-profit organizations, other government departments and foreign space agencies are encouraged to attend this important event.

For more information, please contact:

Nicole Gladu  
Canadian Space Agency  
Tel.: (450) 926-4471  
E-mail: [nicole.gladu@space.gc.ca](mailto:nicole.gladu@space.gc.ca)