



8 September 2008

Dear Colleague,

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and European Space Agency (ESA) cordially invite you to attend the MORSE User Consultation Workshop, to be held on November 12-14, 2008, at the Institute of Ocean Technology (<http://iot-ito.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>) in St-John's, Newfoundland-Labrador, Canada.

The MORSE Initiative focuses on the information needs of Arctic coastal Users in government, non-governmental, industrial and scientific organizations. Particular emphasis is on those needs for Arctic coastal zone monitoring and management that can be satisfied, in whole or in part, by Earth Observation (EO) data from satellites. This new initiative is jointly managed by the CSA and ESA. The MORSE User Consultation Workshop will open a dialogue with End-Users to understand their needs and requirements in the following themes:

- ✓ Mapping, Characterization and Changes with Time of Arctic Coastal Areas
- ✓ Environmental Monitoring of Land, Water and Air in Arctic Coastal Areas
- ✓ Sustainable Economic Development of Natural Resources in Arctic Coastal Areas
- ✓ Safety and Emergency Response in Arctic Coastal Areas
- ✓ Security and Sovereignty in Arctic Coastal Areas.

This workshop will be an opportunity for End-Users to present their information needs, particularly those that present challenges for current techniques. Workshop participants will be invited, together, to identify the highest priorities of products and services to be developed, demonstrated and operationalized.

The workshop format will consist of brief oral presentations directly addressing the themes, followed by ample time for discussion. There will also be a poster session. At the end of the workshop, the concluding discussion period will reach consensus on the most important findings.

After the workshop, CSA and ESA, with the participation of the End-Users, will address the End-User Needs through parallel Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Invitations to Tender (ITTs), respectively, for development of products and services. Multi-year funding will be available to support these developments. In addition, satellite mission data, such as from the ESA Envisat ASAR sensor, from ESA third party mission sensors like ALOS and SPOT, and from the CSA RADARSAT 1 and 2 missions, will be made available at no cost to the project teams. The goal is to develop and demonstrate products

and services that satisfy the Canadian and European End-User requirements and that will later fulfill those requirements operationally.

The MORSE reporting framework will focus on joint CSA/ESA outreach activities and sharing of information and results. The activities under each agency will be pooled and coordinated in order to provide a harmonized reporting on Canadian and European contributions, results, and achievements.

Participants are invited to register on www.morse-arctic.net by 8 October 2008. When registering, please indicate whether you would like to present on the subject of User Needs in one of the five themes above.

The attached MORSE Concept Paper provides a more complete description of the initiative. For more information about the MORSE initiative, please see www.morse-arctic.net. For questions about the agenda and attendance, please contact Don Ball at don.ball@rogers.com.

We look forward to seeing you in St. John's in November.

Sincerely,

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