

SeaU

Multisensor Satellite Technologies for Oil Pollution Monitoring and Source Identification

PROTECTING MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Oceans and seas are fundamental for sustainable development. However, the fragile balance of the marine environment is disrupted by human activities. The SeaU project is determined to improve and further develop the state of the art technology for monitoring the main pollutant - oil.

Seventy one per cent of Earth's surface is covered by water. The EU is determined to preserving these precious environmental assets. By 2021, the Union aims to achieve healthy marine environments by means of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the related Water Framework Directive. This legal framework requires monitoring programmes with a view to obtaining a comprehensive assessment of the state of the marine environment.

The SeaU project will provide new techniques to improve oil spill detection and assess environmental impact services at sea. In particular, the project aims to reduce the number of false alarms that are currently associated with the processing and interpretation of satellite image data in the marine domain.



Oil spill at sea © SeaU

SeaU will improve the current state-of-art methodology for Earth Observation based marine oil spill monitoring.

In doing so, SeaU will enhance the functionality of the CleanSeaNet (CNS) a pan European satellite based oil monitoring service run by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), which was launched in 2007. The project will assist in the further development and amelioration of this service.

Adding space data to in-situ measurements, the project is set to have significant positive economic impacts on the work of offshore oil producers, oil transporters as well as governments responsible for the protection of the marine ecosystems.

SeaU is led by a strong consortium, including leading European providers of operational oil spill monitoring services, and the project has strong synergies with the MyOcean GMES Marine Service project.



GUNNAR PEDERSEN
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What do you want to achieve with this project?

SeaU shall improve the current state-of-the-art methodology for satellite based oil spill detection and introduce the service to new user groups. SeaU will also work towards a harmonised pan-European service which will take full advantage of products from Marine Core Service (MyOcean).

Why is this project important for Europe?

Feedback from European users will be used to develop, demonstrate and validate new methods for satellite based oil spill detection. Results from the project will improve and enhance the functionality of the European oil spill detection service provided by EMSA.

How does your work benefit European citizens?

The aim is to establish a more reliable and accurate satellite based oil detection service. Swift and accurate warning of spills are crucial to initiate actions before the oil drifts on shore. Money can be saved and damages to the environment reduced if spills can be dealt with off-shore.

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LIST OF PARTNERS

- Kongsberg Satellite Services, Norway
- e-GEOS, Italy
- Collecte Localisation Satellites, France
- Norwegian Computing Centre, Norway
- Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre, Norway
- EDISOFT, Portugal
- ACRI-ST, France

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Multisensor Satellite Technologies for Oil Pollution Monitoring and Source Identification (SeaU)

Contract no: 263246

Starting date: 01/02/2011

Duration: 36 months

EU Contribution: € 1.982.400

Estimated total cost: € 3.078.441

