



Before/ after WorldView-2 satellite imagery showing damage in Amatrice, Italy (© [European Space Imaging](#)).

Press Release

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Planetek Italia and European Space Imaging work together to support earthquake emergency operations with free WorldView-2 satellite images.

European Space Imaging and Planetek Italia, long term partners, sprang into action to support the earthquake crisis in Italy supplying the first available very high-resolution satellite imagery to emergency services and the media on 24th August 2016. The imagery was captured by WorldView-2 satellite over the affected region showing the extent of the damage. The imagery was immediately made available to the Italian Emergency Services.

The earthquake hit at around 3:30 am of August 24th, 2016, some 100km northeast of Rome, the capital. The earthquake of magnitude 6.2 severely damaged several towns and killed hundreds of people in central Italy. The towns of Amatrice, Accumoli, Pescara del Tronto and Arquata del Tronto, have been completely devastated.

To support the Italian Emergency services, all main satellite data providers immediately began tasking their satellites to get the urgently needed data of the affected areas. In case of disasters, this data is distributed with free license, in order to let professionals and organizations use it, and to contribute to sharing fast and accurate knowledge of the situation.

Early in the morning of August 24th, Planetek Italia and European Space Imaging, started cooperating, to collect very high resolution imagery of affected areas. A few hours after the earthquake, around 10:20 UTC, [WorldView-2](#) satellite collected the first image of Amatrice, Italy.

Planetek Italia, based in Italy, is a major supplier of satellite imagery and mapping services in Italy. In the case of the earthquake they supplied the first imagery to emergency services.

“The ability of satellites to collect images over large areas, the view from above of the areas affected by an emergency and the comparison with previous images helps to quickly recognize the changes, and understand where to address first aid” tells Giovanni Sylos Labini, CEO of Planetek Italia.

As the leading supplier of very high-resolution satellite imagery in their region European Space Imaging knows the importance of making imagery available quickly.

“When a catastrophe happens in Europe we react quickly. Our expert operations team assess the situation and try to get the best imagery possible with the first satellite access of the day. Once we have collected the affected area successfully we prepare the images and share them”, explains Michaela Neumann, Director of Sales and Marketing, European Space Imaging.

The image was provided to the [Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team \(HOT\)](#) and has been made available to anyone who wants to contribute to the detection and mapping of buildings and infrastructures damaged and destroyed. This activity will provide updated information of great support to Institutions and emergency services during the emergency and after.

The European Union immediately alerted [the Copernicus EMS team](#), which is providing the Italian Civil Protection damage assessment satellite maps for the affected area, based on [European Copernicus Sentinel satellites](#).

If you wish to contribute

- Go to the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) website <http://osmit-tm.wmflabs.org/project/13>
- Download here the [Worldview-2 satellite high resolution dataset of Amatrice collected the 24th August](#) (zip 134 Mb - licence CC-BY-NC)
- Download here the Worldview-2 satellite high resolution dataset of Amatrice collected the 25th August (zip XXX Mb - licence CC-BY-NC)

For further information, please contact

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About European Space Imaging

European Space Imaging (EUSI) is the ‘go to’ company in Europe if you are looking for very high-resolution satellite data. EUSI also operate a multi-mission ground station to provide direct satellite tasking. This enables optimized image collection strategies, flexibility and real-time weather assessments for new collections. With a reputation for expert and personalized customer service EUSI has been providing tailored VHR imagery solutions from their Munich headquarters to meet the diverse project requirements of their customer base since 2002.

For more information, visit www.euspaceimaging.com.

About Planetek

Planetek Italia is an Italian company specialised in geo-informatics, Space solutions and Earth observation. The company provides solutions to exploit the value of geospatial data through all phases of data life cycle from acquisition, storage, management up to analysis and sharing. Planetek Italia operates in many application areas ranging from environmental and land monitoring to open-government and smart cities, and including defence and security, as well as scientific missions and planetary exploration.

For more information, visit www.planetek.it.