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## EUGENIUS: A new association of EO service providers in Europe using Copernicus data

### Industrial perspective on Copernicus - 05/05/2017

The Copernicus programme provides great opportunities for the development of new, innovative and efficient local geo-information services thanks to full, free and open data from a range of sensors aboard the Sentinel satellites, and the possibility to merge data from a variety of complementary sources.

Geo-information services based on satellite data can support local public authorities and private actors to more efficiently carry out operational activities such as urban planning, environmental monitoring (water, air, and soil conditions), disaster management and mitigation, and many others.

Whilst Copernicus makes available the raw materials for the development of such services, it is up to **local operators** to understand the final users' needs, to access locally available *in situ* data if required, and to ensure that the appropriate quality of services is maintained. These tasks call for a wider range of tools and expertise than most individual enterprises have access to.

Recognising this need, a group of European SMEs founded the European Group of Enterprises for a Network of Information using Space (EUGENIUS) in 2016. This network of EO service providers has the ambition to jointly design, create and deliver services and applications related to natural resource management for regional and local customers, primarily public authorities. The applications will be based on the very large quantity of geospatial information made available by the Copernicus programme, as well as through numerous local and regional initiatives.

In this context, I am proud of how EUGENIUS is able to provide cost-effectiveness for local users by sharing data on European regions, including authoritative *in situ*, crowd-sourced and EO data and using tools and applications tried and tested throughout Europe. Long-term sustainability of the services is ensured through the building of local customer relationships, whilst adaptability to specific needs or conditions is made possible by the network of experts.

EUGENIUS, which is open to the inclusion of new members, is both a beneficiary of the Copernicus programme, and a contributor to its evolving downstream services ecosystem.

**By Marc Tondriaux, President of the EUGENIUS association.**

*This text also reflects the opinion from the founders of the Association: Terranis (Toulouse), Planetek (Bari), Spacebel (Liège), Capital Hightech (Bordeaux), Conectus (Strasbourg), Terraspatium (Athens), I-Sea (Bordeaux), Geomer (Heidelberg) and Geoville (Vienna).*

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