

Growing Demand for VHR Satellite Imagery for Civilian Use

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Key words :

ABSTRACT

Since 1999, the launch of the first sub-meter commercial imaging satellite we have witnessed marked improvement in the variety and competitiveness of imaging satellites. Their sensors are much better in terms of higher resolution imagery; more efficient platforms and technologically superior ground systems. Data processing software has improved in terms of capabilities and compatibility, ensuring that customers can concentrate more on extracting value from the data, rather than the mechanics of processing them. While military and homeland security applications still account for the majority of commercial satellite data consumption, a vast civilian industry has emerged. Only now we are beginning to tap the potential of very high-resolution satellite imagery to address problems of managing our communities, our natural resources and environment and the unprecedented pace of change experienced by both. There has also been a significant improvement in the competitiveness of international very high-resolution sensors, among them EROS A and EROS B, developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and owned and operated by ImageSat International. EROS B is currently the only non-American satellite with standard, sub-meter resolution (70 cm), marking the achievement of one of ImageSat's founding principles. ImageSat was established with the vision of serving its customers with direct control over the satellite's sensor and offering competitive, top-quality, high-resolution and accurate imagery. In recent years, ImageSat finds growing interest in its satellites' imagery among civilian users, who appreciate the flexibility of the Company's services and the improved resolution and accuracy offered by EROS B. ImageSat is delivering its services to many projects such as urban mapping , planning, management and change detection. Forests mapping for monitoring and management of growth, fire safety, and illegal logging. Disasters and oil and gas pipe lines monitoring and recently also hijacked ships detection.

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