



creating a unity for the future

EO-MINERS

Earth Observation for Monitoring and Observing Environmental and Societal Impacts of Mineral Resources Exploration and Exploitation

announcement

EO-MINERS final scientific and technical conference October 10 – 11, 2013, Versailles, France

The EO-MINERS project

Non-energy raw materials are vital inputs for the EU's economy and maintaining fair and undistorted access to these materials for EU industry and citizens is increasingly difficult. Within the EU, exploration and extraction have to face increased competition for different land uses and a highly regulated environment. While the EU is currently dependent on the importation of many metals, the overall potential for mining and quarrying in Europe is strong. In spite of this, the land area available for extraction in the EU is constantly decreasing, turning access to land into a key challenge for the extractive industry.

The EO-MINERS project aims at contributing to demonstrate how to improve the EU capacity in implementing new mining sites and their societal and environmental acceptability. The overall objective of EO-MINERS (Earth Observation for Monitoring and Observing Environmental and Societal Impacts of Mineral Resources Exploration and Exploitation) is to bring into play EO-based methods and tools to facilitate and improve interaction between the mineral extractive industry and the society in view of its sustainable development while improving its societal acceptability.

EO offers a unique opportunity to collect necessary spatial parameters that play a key role for better assessments of mining-related environmental and societal impacts. It could enable the development of means to identify the site-specific environmental and societal footprints of mineral resource extraction and to determine their respective significance. This understanding of global and cumulative footprints along a causal chain is needed in order to target policy measures. In this way the expected reduction of environmental and societal footprints in the mining sector can be most effective for the environment and more cost-efficient for public authorities and commercial operators.

The EO-MINERS developments

Development of EO-based monitoring tools has been carried out over three demonstration sites: the lignite open pit of Sokolov in Czech Republic, the Mpumalanga coalfield centred on the town of Emalahleni (previously Witbank) in South Africa, and the Makmal gold mine in Kyrgyzstan. The project first defined environmental, socio-economic, societal, and sustainable development indicators and criteria that can possibly be dealt with using EO techniques. After an analysis of policies related to the environmental and social footprint of mineral industries, project expertise and stakeholder interviews (national and on-site) as well as site investigations led to the establishment of a list of indicators to be monitored by EO, either directly or indirectly, through accessible parameters. From these developments, it is subsequently intended to contribute to the development of generic, standardised EO data integration schemes, in particular in view of characterising affected ecosystems, populations, and societies and prepare indisputable documents that will make the basis for a sound "dialogue" between industry, governmental organisations, and stakeholders.





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The EO-MINERS final conference

The EO-MINERS final conference aims at presenting the project developments and results to parties interested in Earth Observation especially applied to environmental and societal issues, with a special focus on mining activity.

The sessions will include a general presentation of the project and its objectives, the main scientific developments carried out and the products developed to meet stakeholder requirements.

Invitees are welcome to present their relevant activities, both on form of presentations and/or posters.

Date and Venue

Date: 10 and 11 October 2013

Venue: University of Versailles - St Quentin, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

A shuttle service might be organised from hotels in Versailles to the university in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, depending on availability.

For those interested a visit of the Versailles castle could be organised on

Conference provisional schedule

The conference will start on Thursday October 10 at 3:00 pm and terminate on Friday October 11 at 5:00 pm. A first session will take place from 3:00 to 5:30 pm on 10th, followed by a reception around posters at the university foyer. It will consist in a general presentation of the project and its context, a review of the relevant policies, and the development and choice of relevant indicators, along with the methodological steps from indicators to EO-based integrated products.

The second session will occur on 11th from 9:30 am to 12:30 (including a coffee break) and will focus on scientific developments in EO data processing, including standards, and a presentation of the main EO-based integrated products developed during the course of the project.

The third and final session will come off on 11th from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, including a coffee break. It will be dedicated to presentations by invited scientists, followed by a wrap up session, focusing on Horizon 2020.

Contacts / Information

For more information, please contact us at:

<http://www.eo-miners.eu>

PLEASE NOTE:

The participation in the conference will be free of charge. However, available places may be limited and will be provided on first come first serve basis. So please return the attached registration completed to:

final@eo-miners.eu

We will make soon recommendations for accommodation, either in Versailles or Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

