EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Space Policy, Copernicus and Defence
Space Data for Societal Challenges and Growth

"Understanding industrial capacities to support the Copernicus Programme"

In the context of the evolution of the Copernicus Programme[1] the European Commission wishes to conduct a market survey to assess the current capacities of the space market and its possible transformations in the future.

Third party missions already play a significant part in the implementation of the Copernicus Programme. In the context of consolidating the future evolution of the programme, the Commission is undertaking a market survey to assess what capacities and solutions it could resort to in order to complement the existing and future Sentinel satellites[2] in a way that would bring value to the programme and satisfy the requirements of the core Copernicus Services[3].

Among the issues the survey will address are how to leverage the capacities of both industry and Member States and better use public funds to meet the user needs with the industrial offer, and how that offer can enhance the capacities of the Sentinel constellation. As part of the survey, the Commission would like to gain industry's input and ideas with regard to its future development needs and possible implementation mechanisms.

New approaches under consideration would need to be able to deal with the following typical categories of space data and/or services:

- a continuous, Sentinel-like high quality data/service stream to be made available on a free, full and open data policy;
- a continuous higher-quality (e.g. resolution, timeliness, frequency bands, etc.) but possibly geographically limited data/service stream that would be made available to Copernicus Services for the generation of defined added value services only;
- bespoke service products based on higher-quality data (e.g. VHR coverages) that are being procured in regular intervals;
- ad-hoc data/services to respond to punctual needs as they arise.

Such capacities should ensure, first and foremost, the provision of high quality, reliable and affordable data and services to satisfy the evolving needs of the Copernicus Services. Part of the objective is also to promote the global competitiveness and innovation of the European

[1] Regulation (EU) No 377/2014 of 3.04.2014.
[2] Copernicus dedicated satellites.
[3] Marine Environment, Land and Atmosphere Monitoring, Climate Change, Emergency Management and Security Services.

industry (e.g. in terms of independence, global market share, job creation, etc.) Future approaches would thus aim at exploring how the Copernicus Programme could stimulate new and innovative initiatives in Europe, including by integrating fast-evolving capabilities and new asset types (e.g. small sats, HAPs, RPAS, etc.) and/or advances in data analytics.

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Economic operators interested to take part in the survey are invited to notify the Commission in writing to GROW-I3@ec.europa.eu by ***4th April 2018*** *at the latest, indicating their formal interest, together with a preliminary indication of assets (existing or planned) which could be made available to the Copernicus programme in its evolution post-2020. All information will be treated in a confidential manner.*

Through this survey and further exploratory discussions the Commission expects to gain a better understanding of the industrial interest and capacities (including new and innovative asset types) which could be available to the Copernicus programme together with a high-level characterisation thereof.

Disclaimer:

This survey should in no way be regarded as a formal call for tenders. Its purpose is to inform the reflections and technical analysis conducted by the European Commission together with its Entrusted Entities and the Member States on the possible future evolution of the Copernicus Programme post-2020. It is without prejudice to the next Multi-annual Financial Framework and constitutes no commitment or indication thereto from the Commission to award a contract, enter into an agreement or disburse or commit Union funds.