Access to HotSat-1 as ESA's Third Party Mission

Terms of Applicability

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1   General

Within the Third Party Mission scheme, ESA provides to Earth Observation users data from non-ESA missions, so-called Third Party Missions, to complement the data from ESA EO missions and to support and build up the scientific user community for those data in Europe.

A Third Party Mission (TPM) is a mission
- that is operated by any legal body, governmental or non-governmental entity other than ESA, or
- for which ESA assumes some formal responsibility towards the mission operator or to which ESA contributes financially, usually through sharing of Ground Segment facilities or operations cost, or
- for which ESA assumes a data distribution responsibility, usually towards European Users, but sometimes towards a worldwide user community for a subset of the geographic coverage of this mission.

The implementation of a new Third Party Mission follows a Selection Procedure approved by the Program Board on Earth Observation in 2004. This procedure evaluates a yearly list of Third Party Candidate Missions according to a set of criteria (e.g. European User benefits and excellence, accessibility etc.). In order to gain access to the TPM data, ESA establishes co-operation schemes with the owners/operators of the Third Party Missions. In these co-operation schemes, one option foresees to provide ground segment support to the TPM owner/operator in exchange for access to the TPM data (e.g. share acquisition or archiving facilities or support respective operations).

Under the Third Party Missions Programme, Satellite Vu (SatVu) HotSat-1 data are available to users via a dedicated Announcement of Opportunity opened in September 2024.

Within the ESA CAT-1 TPM Scheme, ESA offers to the CAT-1 user community the following services provided by UNSEENLABS:

➢ Delivery to Category-1 worldwide users of archive and new acquisition products for category-1 use (see also Section 3)
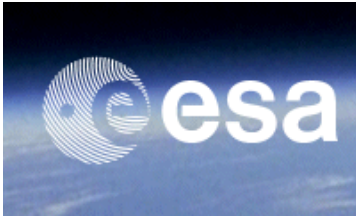
2   Data Accessibility Conditions

Once the end-user's project request is validated by ESA and SatVu, the data will be delivered directly from SatVu to the end-user and will be subject to SatVu's End User Licence Agreement (EULA).

SatVu will grant the end-user a non-exclusive, non-transferable, worldwide licence to use:
- A.   the Analytic Products and Imagery Products and
- B.   the SatVu Platform and API for the Term subject to the terms and conditions set forth on Appendix A of the EULA.

3 Data users

➢ Access to data is considered for worldwide users, but it may be subject to restriction or limitation by SatVu, in its sole discretion, in terms of supplying products relating to a specific geographical area or specific customers. Evaluation is done on a case-by-case basis.

4 Assignment and usage of quota

Assignment of quota

A user requesting access to HotSat-1 products in the frame of the Announcement of Opportunity shall submit a project proposal to ESA. During the project submission, the user shall specify their needs as:

- The number of archive products desired

The available archive products can be viewed from the SatVu HotSat-1 Imager Public Database, available here.

ESA then evaluates the scientific content of a submitted project proposal against the data requirements of the PI and a respective quota will be assigned to the project. ESA tries to support as many high-quality and innovative projects as possible within the quota limit available, therefore only a limited number of products can be made available to each project.

The assigned quota is valid for one year after reception of the final acceptance email. This validity period can be superseded if clearly specified to the user.

Usage of quota

The PI (and Co-PIs if any) is allowed to order the products from SatVu within the limit of the quota assigned by ESA.

The PI (and Co-PIs if any) is not strictly constrained to order exactly the products corresponding to the quota assigned to their project. The ordered products can change with respect to the original proposal provided that the new request is within the original assigned quota. PIs (and Co-PIs if any) willing to order something different than the quota (but within the list of available products above) are invited to contact SatVu prior to submitting the order to evaluate the impact on the quota.

PIs (and Co-PIs if any) are responsible for consuming the credits assigned to the project within the validity period of 1 year. After the validity period of 1 year, ESA reserves the right to re-absorb them.

Data Ordering

Data can be ordered directly from SatVu by means of an email which contains the following information:

- The list of product names

Once submitted, a feasibility assessment will be performed by the SatVu team to confirm that the request is possible.

Further data ordering instructions will be shared via email from eohelp@esa.int once the project proposal has been accepted.

Data delivery

➢ The data delivery will be handled directly by SatVu. The data delivery will include:

- the Analytic Products and Imagery Products
- the SatVu Platform and API (for the Term subject to the terms and conditions set forth on Appendix A of the EULA).

5 Reporting

All selected PI's will be required to provide a short progress report to eohelp@esa.int describing the status of the project and highlighting any issues which may interfere with the running of the project.

At the end of the project period, a final report shall be submitted summarising the major findings of the project and its achievements versus the original objectives.

The report will be shared with SatVu. PIs may be invited to present their results at symposia or specialised workshops to be organised by ESA.

The template for reporting can be downloaded from the HotSat-1 new tasking and archive collection description page, in the RESOURCES section.