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Earth Observation Activities from Airbus Defence and Space

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THEME: Outlook on commercial EO Systems

KEY WORDS: Earth Observation, Commercial, Industry, Platforms, Satellites

ABSTRACT:

Airbus Defence and Space has been working on Earth Observation Programmes for over 30 years. This presentation will look at the heritage of the company and its involvement in European Space Agency and nationally sponsored programmes. In the field of meteorology the MetOp satellites are a key success and the new contract for the MetOp Second Generation system allows Airbus Defence and Space to continue this work. Building a system that will operate for more than 20 years, with the first launch after 2020 presents some interesting challenges that will be described.

The Copernicus programme will provide a wide range of remote sensing data for the user community and Airbus Defence and Space is involved in all the Sentinel missions, and the prime contractor of three. The unique funding scheme for this programme has allowed follow-on models to be secured, ensuring continuity of data.

The presentation will look at the future Earth Observation remote sensing landscape, and provide an overview of the future plans of the company in this field. Areas presented will include how the company has developed a product policy approach to Earth Observation platforms and how this approach is also being developed for instrumentation as well as ground systems where the architectures are evolving, in both cases this is to allow Airbus Defence and Space to meet customers' needs in a cost-effective way.

Finally this presentation will consider how the commercial market for Earth Observation data is changing, and technologies such as hosted payloads, Earth Observations constellations and real-time video from space are new areas under discussion, and what this might mean for the future.