

The Canadian Earth Observation Program: On the move from R&D to Operations

E. Laliberté

Canadian Space Agency (CSA)
6767, route de l'Aéroport, Saint-Hubert (Québec) J3Y 8Y9, Canada

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ABSTRACT:

The Canadian Space Agency has noted a significant increase in demands for EO data from the different Federal Departments and public sector organizations in general. This is particularly true of Synthetic Aperture Radar imagery. To be beneficial data requires applications as well as development programs to establish capabilities. The CSA has been successful in setting up such programs and results are beginning to show. As applications and operational use grow there is an increasing need for data continuity and the CSA is progressing on the construction of the RADARSAT Constellation as well as looking at exchanges of data to complement and increase resilience of the data stream. RADARSAT experience has taught us that not all users are equal and their requirements are different. However, as the application is moving from R&D to operational status , users develop common basic needs; reliable and affordable source of data to sustain their operation.