

Operational SAR Tools for ArcGIS

PCI Geomatics, Canada, is collaborating with MDA Geospatial Services to implement operational software tools for ArcGIS using RADARSAT-2 demonstration data. PCI introduced Geolmaging Tools for ArcGIS in 2010, and is currently developing a Radar module, which will allow ArcGIS users to perform coherent change detection, time series analysis, image classification, and feature extraction using RADARSAT-2 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data as well as other SAR imagery.

RADARSAT-2 is an all-weather day/night commercial satellite that has a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) instrument, capable of taking images at multiple resolutions ranging from 100m to 1m. RADARSAT-2 also can collect simultaneous multi-channel imagery with differing polarisation (fully polarimetric), providing a greater ability to discriminate and classify features on the ground from a single date. MDA Geospatial Services Inc. is a leading provider of Earth observation data, information products and services, and the exclusive holder of distribution rights to Canada's RADARSAT-1 and RADARSAT-2 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites. The Canadian Space Agency partnered with MDA to develop RADARSAT-2, which is now managed and operated by MDA.

Multi-temporal fully polarimetric RADARSAT-2 data has been collected over key locations in Europe, the US, and Canada that will be used to develop operational demonstrations of SAR data. PCI will prepare a series of demonstrations and educate the international community through a series of webinars and live demonstrations at tradeshow and events together with ESRI in 2011 and beyond.

PCI Geomatics's existing relationship with MDA Geospatial Services stretches back to the initial launch of RADARSAT-1 in 1995. At that time, PCI was first to implement CEOS support in addition to image filtering and registration capability. The technology developed by PCI Geomatics made it possible for the international community working with RADARSAT-1 data to analyse the imagery, and develop operational applications. PCI Geomatics added support for the next-generation RADARSAT-2 satellite in 2005 with the release of its SAR Polarimetric Toolkit (SPW), two years ahead of the RADARSAT-2 December 2007 launch. Through its business partnership with ESRI, PCI Geomatics is excited to further develop the SAR user base, by introducing simple to use yet powerful analysis tools for SAR data to millions of ArcGIS users worldwide.