Press release

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PEPS and Sentinel-2 bring new perspectives

The Copernicus programme is pursuing its deployment. After the launch of Sentinel-1A on 3 April 2014 by Soyuz from the Guiana Space Centre (CSG), Sentinel-2A, orbited on 23 June 2015 by Vega, also from the CSG, is now operational. For CNES's Sentinel Product Exploitation Platform (PEPS), this signals the start of a new stream of data for Copernicus users.

Designed to serve the operational needs of the Copernicus programme, this first satellite of the future Sentinel-2 constellation combines a multispectral optical imaging capability (13 spectral bands including three in the infrared) with high resolution (10 to 20 metres), perpetuating the heritage of the SPOT and Landsat satellites, and an exceptionally wide 280-kilometre swath. The high-quality data from its MultiSpectral Imager (MSI) are geared to regular and effective monitoring of terrestrial ecosystems and sensitive areas. Land-use maps and detection of land-cover changes help to gain new insights into how territories are evolving in order to inform land-planning decisions with a view to assuring sustainable development practices and better stewardship of our planet.

PEPS, the Sentinel Product Exploitation Platform developed by CNES, is now opening access to Sentinel-2A data made available by the European Space Agency (ESA), in addition to Sentinel-1A data already available since last September. Easily accessible and free of charge, these data will come with new features starting this autumn, when PEPS will be offering on-line processing to nurture new applications in areas as diverse as agriculture, environmental monitoring and land planning.

Through its unique know-how in Europe in optical imaging, CNES has played a key role in Sentinel-2, lending ESA expertise and technical support for image quality, processing and production. This fruitful cooperation, with CNES providing input during in-orbit checkout of Sentinel-2A imagery and in developing advanced products, is set to continue through the Theia land surfaces data and services hub.

Following the key decisions reached at the COP21 climate conference, Copernicus, overseen by the European Commission, is helping through the steady deployment of the Sentinel satellites to combat global warming.

PEPS platform at www.peps.cnes.fr
More information at https://cnes.fr/fr/media/peps-des-donnees-satellites-pour-tous

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