

Press Release

Copernicus Masters 2017: Disaster Management Challenge

The Copernicus Masters Disaster Management Challenge by Astrosat requests entrants to submit an innovative application using data from the Copernicus suite by 30 June 2017

The Copernicus Masters Disaster Management Challenge by Astrosat is looking for a new application that can be added into the Astrosat RAPID disaster management platform

Gilching, 6 June 2017 – Earthquakes, volcanoes, floods and landslides are normal natural events but they are disastrous in their impact when they affect human settlements. Especially, because any disaster can interrupt essential services, such as health care, electricity, water, garbage removal, transportation and communications.



Astrosat, a private sector, commercial, satellite applications company, has created and deployed “RAPID”, the Recovery and Protection in Disaster system. It is a single data point designed to meet the needs of first responders and others who have a demand for situational awareness/intelligence in critical situations. The Copernicus Masters Disaster Management Challenge by Astrosat is looking for a solution that will support first-responders in their disaster relief efforts. The application then could be included into the RAPID system, as part of the situational awareness and decision support tool for those responding to natural catastrophes.

“Without the Copernicus Masters competition, Astrosat would not be where it is today. Don’t miss this opportunity to participate and take your idea into a business like we did!”, explains Georgy Dean, Head of Projects, Stevenson Astrosat Ltd.

However, all applications for the Copernicus Masters Disaster Management Challenge by Astrosat must use data from the Copernicus suite of Sentinel satellites. In addition, it can include information from other data sources e.g. non-ESA satellite data, commercial satellite data or in-situ information, to create outputs that offer significant benefits to the teams dealing with disaster response at all levels: From senior coordinators, down to the people on the ground who are dealing with the situation hands-on. It can be focused on specific types of disaster scenarios (e.g. flooding, earthquake, man-made disasters, and so on) or can be made suitable to address a range of different scenarios. Likewise, the application can be designed to tackle issues in specific regions, or can be designed to address scenarios that happen across the globe.

The winner or winning team will be awarded a bespoke support package prize valued at EUR 8,000 that includes business and technical assistance to help bring the product closer to market, as well a substantial satellite data quota worth EUR 5,000 made available by the European Commission.

Startups and other companies, researchers, and students, need to submit their applications or ideas until 30 June 2017 at www.copernicus-masters.com.

About Copernicus Masters

Earth observation and the big data it produces hold huge potential for the creation of innovative products and services. Myriad industries and areas of public interest stand to profit from the advances of the Copernicus programme. Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen (AZO) has launched the Copernicus Masters in 2011 on behalf of the European Space Agency (ESA) and with strong support of world-class partners as part of their mission to foster the User Uptake of Copernicus services. The Copernicus Masters is an international competition which awards prizes to innovative solutions for business and society based on Earth observation data. The Copernicus Masters has developed into the moving force of promoting cutting-edge solutions. Annually, different prize categories tackle global challenges with revolutionary competition entries in the fields of deep learning, the IoT, big data analytics, smart mobility and industry 4.0 – just to name a few. For more information please see www.copernicus-masters.com.

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About Astrosat

Astrosat is a private sector, commercial, satellite applications company based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Astrosat's clients are spread internationally from South East Asia to Central America and consume products as diverse as deforestation monitoring to energy efficiency in the urban environment as well as disaster response management. For more information see www.astrosat.biz.

About AZO

AZO has established a global network for innovation and entrepreneurship. It supports product innovation and company foundations in the field of commercial space applications along the entire value chain – from the idea all the way to market entry. AZO has extensive experience in organising innovation competitions such as the European Satellite Navigation Competition, the Copernicus Masters (Earth observation), the Space Exploration Masters, the StartupWorld Awards (laser photonics and robotics), as well as the INNOspace Masters (New Space Economy), app developer camps and conferences, and manages ESA BIC Bavaria. More information: www.space-of-innovation.com

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