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Competiția pentru Premiul "Farming by Satellite" pentru 2018 se lansează astăzi

Înscrierea pentru cea de-a 4-a ediție a Competiției „Farming by Satellite” (Agricultură controlată prin satelit) a fost deschisă oficial astăzi de către Directorul General Adjunct Delsaux, DG Grow, Comisia Europeană, care a luat cuvântul la Bruxelles, la Parlamentul European, în cadrul Conferinței „Agriculture: a new frontier for the European space policy” („Agricultură: o nouă frontieră pentru politica spațială europeană”) organizată de deputatul european Andrieu.

Competiția "Farming by Satellite" oferă un premiu în valoare de 5.000 € și lansează următoarea întrebare: „Cum putem utiliza tehnologiile prin satelit pentru îmbunătățirea agriculturii și reducerea impactului asupra mediului?”

Dr Andrew Speedy, președinte al juriului, a afirmat: „Suntem în căutare de noi idei și inovații, în special cele care se bazează pe serviciile europene de navigare prin satelit EGNOS și Galileo și pe Programul European de Observare a Pământului, Copernicus. Spre deosebire de competițiile trecute, în acest an, studenții și tinerii profesioniști sunt invitați să își finalizeze proiectele în vacanța de vară. Anticipăm propuneri cu subiecte de actualitate precum Big Data, realitatea augmentată, agricultura 4.0, inteligența artificială și multe altele!”

Finaliștii vor fi participa în cadrul unui eveniment important pentru ceremonia de jurizare și acordarea premiilor, toate cheltuielile fiind acoperite de către organizatori. În ultimii ani, expoziția agricolă SIMA de la Paris, conferința Space Solutions din Praga și, cel mai recent eveniment, Târgul Internațional Săptămâna Verde din Berlin au găzduit finala competiției. Un loc similar este pregătit pentru sfârșitul anului 2018.

Competiția este o inițiativă a Agenției GNSS European și a Agenției Europene de Mediu, fiind sponsorizată de CLAAS, compania de inginerie agricolă. Scopul acestui premiu este de a promova Serviciile Europene de Navigare prin Satelit (GNSS) și de Observare a Pământului (EO) în domeniul agriculturii.

Premiul a fost acordat pentru prima dată în anul 2012, iar finaliștii anteriori sunt tineri din Belgia, Cehia, Franța, Italia, Germania, România, Portugalia, Spania și Regatul Unit al Marii Britanii. Subiectele au variat de la platforme de date on-line georeferențiate, tehnologii swarm, roboți de plantare a

semințelor de înaltă precizie, sisteme de detectare și evaluare a culturilor și un nou sistem de prognoză pentru producția de orez.

Câștigătorii celei mai recente ediții au fost membrii unei echipe de la ISA Lille din Franța, cu propunerea lor de a optimiza proprietățile de acoperire a plantelor folosind imagini din satelit. Comentând impactul mai larg al propunerii câștigătoare, membrul echipei, Louise Vernier, a declarat: „Acest premium m-a ajutat să urmez un stagiu. De fapt, sunt un student debutant (70% din timp la locul de muncă și 30% la universitate) într-o companie de comerț cu cereale, în departamentul de inovare. În timpul interviului, managerul meu mi-a pus o mulțime de întrebări referitoare la acest premiu! Cred că asta l-a făcut să mă aleagă pe mine în locul altcuiva.“

Membru al echipei, Marie Rolloy, recomandă oamenilor să aibă încredere și să participe: „Trebuie doar să analizați nevoile unei piețe și să faceți o sesiune de brainstorming cu privire la toate soluțiile pe care vi le puteți imagina. Câștigarea premiului a reprezentat o șansă reală pentru mine. În primul rând, mi-a oferit o experiență profesională minunată și, mai presus de toate, încredere în capacitatea mea de a veni cu inovații. Premiul ne-a permis să cunoaștem multe companii și să ne extindem contactele, și cel mai important, ne-a oferit încredere în ideea noastră.“

Detalii complete despre competiție sunt disponibile la adresa www.farmingbysatellite.eu. Înscrierea este simplă și trebuie finalizată înainte de termenul limită de 30 iunie 2018; înregistrările timpurii vor putea beneficia de facilități pentru evenimente secundare. Propunerile finale trebuie trimise până la data de 7 septembrie 2018.

Notes to editors:

UK consultancy Helios has been contracted to manage the Farming by Satellite Prize. For further information about the prize please contact Andrea King from Helios on +44 1252 451 651 or email: info@farmingbysatellite.eu

Poster download link:

http://www.farmingbysatellite.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/2018_edition/DRUCK_CES-0136-18_Farming_By_Satellite_Poster.pdf

Leaflet download link:

http://www.farmingbysatellite.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/2018_edition/DRUCK_CES-0136-18_Farming_By_Satellite_Flyer.pdf

About the European GNSS Agency (GSA) – www.gsa.europa.eu

As an official European Union Agency (EU), the European GNSS Agency's (GSA) mission is responsible for the operations and service provision for EGNOS and Galileo, the European Satellite Navigation systems. We support EU objectives and achieve the highest return on Europe's investment in global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), in terms of benefits to users and economic growth and competitiveness, by:

- Designing and enabling services that fully respond to user needs, while continuously improving the European GNSS services and Infrastructure;

- Managing the provision of quality services that ensure user satisfaction in the most cost efficient manner;
- Engaging market stakeholders to develop innovative and effective applications, value-added services and user technology that promote the achievement of full European GNSS adoption;
- Ensuring that European GNSS services and operations are thoroughly secure, safe and accessible.

For further information about the GSA contact: com@gsa.europa.eu

About the European Environment Agency (EEA) -

www.eea.europa.eu

The EEA is an agency of the European Union tasked with providing sound, independent information on the environment. It is a major information source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and also for the general public. The EEA's mandate is:

- to help the Community and member and cooperating countries make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability;
- to coordinate the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet).

Proper management of the environment and supporting long term transition to a sustainable society requires timely and accurate information on land cover and land cover changes. This is why the EEA is also in charge of the implementation of the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS): <https://land.copernicus.eu/>, and of the Copernicus in situ data coordination.

For further information about EEA contact: info@eea.europa.eu

About Farming by Satellite Prize – www.farmingbysatellite.eu

The competition will promote the use of GNSS and earth observation in agriculture, the reduction of environmental impacts, and benefit to end-users. Entries must therefore clearly demonstrate how the use of GNSS is either a) already realising significant benefits to users or b) could enable new innovative services in the near future.

Particular attention should be paid to the additional value offered by:

- EGNOS in providing a free-to-air higher accuracy augmentation to Global Positioning System (GPS) to about one metre, access to integrity data which validates the signals transmitted by GNSS satellites along with alerts in near real time (less than six seconds) of any shortcomings in the reliability of the positioning signals and benefits from accurate and reliable synchronisation with Universal Time Coordinated (UTC).
- Galileo, the new European satellite service starting at the end of 2016, providing a highly accurate, guaranteed global positioning service under civilian control. It is interoperable with GPS and Glonass, the US and Russian global satellite navigation systems. By offering dual

frequencies as standard, Galileo is set to deliver real-time positioning accuracy down to the metre range.

- Copernicus is the European Union's system for monitoring the earth from space. The Copernicus services transform a wealth of satellite and in situ data into value-added information in six thematic areas: land, marine, atmosphere, climate change, emergency management and security. The information services provided are freely and openly accessible to its users.

Types of entry

Entries may take any of the following forms:

1. Success stories of the application of GNSS or new ideas and innovations, including:
 - Precision agriculture
 - Soil, vegetation, disease and yield mapping
 - Traceability of products
 - Environmental management
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Augmented reality
 - Big data
2. Technical proposals for equipment/software/systems
3. Applications for small producers and/or cooperative groups
4. Wide area application of GNSS and EO in agriculture, forestry, fisheries

The entry must be supported by references and justification for values used. Entries must be submitted by 07th September 2018.

All entries must include a form of presentation suitable for the prize awarding event. Shortlisted entries will be expected to present their ideas using an MS PowerPoint or Open Office Impress slideshow, prior to the final decisions from the judges.

Some examples of entries received for previous editions of the Prize included:

- Integrated Farm Management Data and Information System
- Mobile Sample Collector
- Virtual Pastures
- Zero Draught and Scatter Robotic Seed Establishment
- Total Field Management Programme
- Vitismart: Digital Maps for limited-size vineyards
- Agropanning: Integrated Precision Farming
- Advanced GPS guidance
- Accurate monitoring of the machinery movement
- Active sprayer boom levelling
- A satellite aided bale collection system
- Smart irrigation systems
- Soil electrical conductivity mapping
- Minimising soil compaction through analysing weather patterns and water levels
- Gamification of erosion prevention strategies

- Nitrogen sidedressing in seed potatoes on the basis of reflectance measurements and an advice system
- Agricultural decision support systems for a country/state
- Remote sensing in pest control
- Livestock e-surveillance system
- A system to manage aerial spray drift of agrochemicals
- Integrating predictive analytics for decision making
- Harnessing satellite information to establish the most effective yearly migration route for beehives while assessing the bee pastures' carrying capacity
- A new forecasting system for rice production
- Organisation of flow of organic matter using satellite data
- Software development to support agricultural water management using remote sensing data
- Scanning pivots with multiple features such as irrigation decision support, detection of plagues and diseases, weather monitoring, measurement of crops
- Optimisation of plant cover properties using satellite imagery
- Add on for implements enabling autonomous driving and optimal working depths
- Crop type detection and evaluation system

Who is eligible?

The competition is open to all students and young people below the age of 32 studying or resident in any of the following countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Individual or team entries are welcomed. A team may comprise up to 4 people.

About EGNOS and agriculture:

<https://www.gsa.europa.eu/segment/agriculture>

<https://www.gsa.europa.eu/egnos/what-egnos>

EGNOS is the first European concrete venture into satellite navigation. EGNOS delivers services based on GPS and GLONASS signals, providing augmentation signals re-transmitted by geostationary satellites and a network of ground stations.

EGNOS represents a European solution for the Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS). There are also other SBAS systems in the world, e.g. Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) in the USA. EGNOS augments the two satellite navigation systems now operating, the US GPS and Russian GLONASS systems and will soon in its next version augment Galileo, the European satellite navigation system. Crucially for agriculture, EGNOS also increases the accuracy of existing satellite positioning services to about one metre or better.

Precision agriculture refers to the use of satellite navigation sensors, aerial images, and other tools to determine optimum sowing density, fertiliser cover and other inputs. It also refers to the use of GNSS

for supporting machine guidance, virtual fencing, and land parcel identification. These techniques allow farmers to save money, reduce their impact on the environment and increase their productivity. EGNOS can offer an affordable precision solution.

EGNOS can support:

- Variable ploughing, seeding and spraying – Variable Rate Technology (VRT)
- Tractor guidance
- Individual livestock positioning
- Virtual fencing
- Land parcel identification and geo-traceability
- Post-harvest pick-up
- Supervised livestock tracking
- Field measurement
- Field boundary mapping and updating

EGNOS will help to:

- Enhance precision
- Eliminate waste and over-application of fertilisers and herbicides
- Save time
- Reduce fatigue
- Extend equipment lifetime by optimising its use
- Provide geo-traceability
- Optimise crop yields
- Increase profit margins

About Galileo - www.gsa.europa.eu/galileo/why-galileo

Galileo is the European satellite system available since December 2016. Up to now, GNSS users in Europe have had no alternative other than to use American GPS or Russian GLONASS satellite signals. Yet the military operators of these systems can give no guarantee to maintain uninterrupted service.

Meanwhile, satellite positioning has already become the standard and essential tool for navigating and related applications. As the use of satellite navigation spreads, the implications of signal failure increase, jeopardising not only the efficient running of transport systems, but also human safety.

By being interoperable with GPS, Galileo aspires to be a new cornerstone of GNSS. This worldwide system will henceforth be under civilian control. And with its full complement of satellites, more than the current GNSS systems, Galileo will allow positions to be determined accurately even in high-rise cities, where buildings obscure signals from today's satellites.

Galileo will also offer several signal enhancements making the signal more easy to track and acquire and more resistant against interference and reflections.

By placing satellites in orbits at a greater inclination to the equatorial plane, Galileo will also achieve better coverage at high latitudes, making it particularly suitable for operation over northern Europe, an area not well covered by current GPS signals.

About Copernicus - www.copernicus.eu

Copernicus is the European Earth Observation Programme and is an initiative led by the European Union. The programme is coordinated and managed by the European Commission.

Copernicus consists of a complex set of systems, which collects data from multiple sources combining the Sentinel series of Earth observation satellites with in situ sensors such as ground stations, airborne and sea-borne sensors. Copernicus processes this data and provides users with reliable and up-to-date information. In addition to agriculture, application domains include sustainable development and nature protection, regional and local planning, forestry and fisheries, infrastructure, as well as transport and mobility.

Policymakers and public authorities are the major users of Copernicus and use the information to prepare environmental legislation and policies with a particular focus on climate change. They monitor their implementation and assess their effects. Additionally, Copernicus supports the critical decisions that need to be made quickly during emergencies, such as when natural or man-made catastrophes and humanitarian crises occur.

Users are provided with information through services dedicated to a systematic monitoring and forecasting of the state of the Earth's subsystems. The following six thematic areas are developed:

- Land monitoring
- Marine monitoring
- Atmosphere monitoring
- Emergency management
- Security
- Climate change

About Copernicus Land Monitoring – <https://land.copernicus.eu/>

The objective of the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service is to provide information on land cover, land use, land cover changes, vegetation state and water cycle to users in the field of environmental and other terrestrial applications. Information priorities are defined by the results of consultations with stakeholders and of user communities. Final priorities and their relevance to users are validated by the European Commission with the advice of the Copernicus User Forum.

The data sets created by land monitoring are combined into a variety of essential products and services based on satellite observations. Data modeling for future trends, such as land cover characteristics and land use changes, provide the European Union with policy support for better decision making. The Copernicus land monitoring activities also feed into a variety of environmental reports. Academics use the products and services for their research and citizens across Europe and beyond, consult the data and publications. Public authorities use the data to develop operational services whereas companies use them for new business opportunities.