PCI Geomatics working with RADARSAT-2 data to develop operational SAR tools for ESRI's ArcGIS technology

Richmond Hill, Ontario – February 03, 2011: PCI Geomatics, a world-leading developer of geo-imaging software and systems, is pleased to announce it is collaborating with MDA Geospatial Services Inc., 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 commercially available SAR imagery.

PCI Geomatics has had a long and fruitful relationship with MDA Geospatial Services Inc., stretching 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 analyze 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.

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. In addition, RADARSAT-2 can collect simultaneous multi-channel imagery with differing polarization (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.

“SAR has tremendous potential for delivering unique information and complementing optical data collections“, said David Stanley, PCI’s Chief Technology Officer. “Our key objective is to develop powerful, simple-to-use tools that can be integrated into GIS workflows, enabling the next generation operational application development of SAR imagery through a well-established and broad user base. RADARSAT-2 imagery will be used to develop compelling application examples for GIS users to adopt SAR imagery into their everyday operations”.

William Jefferies, Chief Technical Officer of MDA Geospatial Services said, “PCI has a long history of supporting RADARSAT and other SAR missions with advanced image analysis capabilities. Current and future users, however, demand going beyond the generation of image products alone, as multi-source imagery and derived products are fused with other data sources and presented in a form that is easily integrated with established operations. By linking proven radar image analysis technology to universal GIS data exploitation and dissemination, a new and unprecedented level of utility will be established.”

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 tradeshows and events together with ESRI in 2011 and beyond. For more information on Geolmaging Tools, please visit www.pcigeomatics.com/gitools.
About PCI Geomatics

PCI Geomatics is a world-leading developer of software and systems for geo-imaging solutions. Since 1982, we have specialized in remote sensing, digital photogrammetry, spatial analysis, cartographic production, automated production systems, image management, and on-demand mapping solutions. PCI Geomatics' advanced software systems address a wide variety of industry applications including the environment, agriculture, security and intelligence, aerospace & defense, and satellite receiving stations. We have the expertise and know-how to turn images into useful information. For more information, visit www.pcigeomatics.com.

About GeoImaging Tools for ArcGIS

PCI Geomatics is introducing a suite of modules that integrate directly into ArcGIS for achieving common image related tasks. The release of GeoImaging Tools version 2.0 coincides and integrates directly within ESRI's recently released ArcGIS version 10 software. With the GeoImaging Tools Image Correction Module, ArcGIS users can now benefit from rigorous, automated optical and SAR multi-sensor support and be able to correct raw imagery using sensor model information, optionally with automatic GCPs and tie points from reference data such as reference mosaics or vectors. Higher levels of registration accuracy are achievable via block bundle adjustments. Users also have the option of saving the correction parameters and creating mosaic datasets for direct use with ArcGIS for on-the-fly processing, reducing data duplication. GeoImaging Tools for ArcGIS version 2.0 features direct integration within the ArcGIS 10 Arc Toolbox. Upcoming product releases include the Radar Module, which will provide the best tools for Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data processing and analysis, including a comprehensive Polarimetric toolkit and support for all commercially available SAR sensors. For more information about GeoImaging Tools, visit our website at http://www.pcigeomatics.com/gitools.

About MDA

MDA provides advanced information solutions that capture and process vast amounts of data, produce essential information, and improve the decision making and operational performance of business and government organizations worldwide. Focused on markets and customers with strong repeat business potential, MDA delivers a broad spectrum of information solutions, ranging from complex operational systems, to tailored information services, to electronic information products. The Company's common shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol TSX:MDA.

Press Contact

Kevin R. Jones
Director, Marketing and Product Management
T: 819-770-0022 x 214
E: jones@pcigeomatics.com
Web: www.pcigeomatics.com
Twitter: @pcigeomatics