



Australian Government

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Dr Luc Brûlé
Chair, Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
C/- Canadian Space Agency
via Email
cc: Ms Marie-Josée Bourassa

Dear Dr Brûlé

Thank you for allowing Geoscience Australia (GA) to apply for Associate Membership of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). GA is Australia's national geoscience agency, and has been involved in remote sensing activities since the Australian Landsat Station became operational in 1979.

We have an active National Earth Observation Program, in which we invest approximately AUD \$7 million per annum. Through this program we apply Earth observations for the benefit of Australia in areas as diverse as emergency management, resource mapping and environmental monitoring. We have a highly skilled workforce across the areas of remote sensing science, ground segment engineering, data management, and high performance computing. Under the Australian Government's *Satellite Utilisation Policy* we are identified as one of two national operational agencies for Earth observations from space. This positions us to act as a focal point for Australian engagement with international bodies such as CEOS.

Although we do not operate satellites, we are recognised as an active international contributor. We acquire data on behalf of a number of foreign governments, including Japan and the United States of America, through our ground segment. We repatriate this data to operators, and make it available to support public good uses and innovation. We have also invested in developing expertise in key areas of relevance to the international community, including calibration and validation, and development of new methods to derive value from Earth Observation data in applications such as wild-fire and continent-scale land cover mapping.

Although we are not currently a member of CEOS, GA staff have been actively engaged with the work of the body for some time. Senior officers from GA have attended a number of Plenary meetings, and our scientists have been active contributors to a number of CEOS working groups. We would be keen to further extend our contribution if accepted as Associate Members, including through in-kind support for targeted projects in the calibration/validation, Synthetic Aperture Radar and Data Democracy activities.

Information to support our application for membership, addressing the criteria for Associate Membership, is attached. I would greatly appreciate if this application could be considered at the November 2013 Plenary meeting of CEOS. Our officers will attend and will be available to provide a formal presentation.

If you require any further information or assistance from us, please do not hesitate to contact the leader of our National Earth Observation Program, Dr Adam Lewis (Adam.Lewis@ga.gov.au).

Chris Pigram
Chief Executive Officer

2 October 2013