**Concept Note**

**Unlocking commercial EO archives for public use**

**Agenda**

| **Topic** | **Time (JST)** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Welcome
 | 14:15 |
| 1. Introduction
 | 14:17 |
| 1. Discussion
	* Existing processes
	* Proposed format
	* Development of proposal
 | 14:20 |
| 1. Next Steps, review of actions
 | 14:40 |
| 1. Adjournment
 | 14:45 |

**Annex I: Meeting Concept**

***Unlocking commercial EO archives for public use***

**Leads:** LSI-VC co-leads

**Date & Time:** 16th April 2025, 11:30am - 12:00pm

**Location:**  JAXA Tsukuba Space Center, 2-1-1 Sengen, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-8505 Japan. Meeting Room A, 2nd Floor in C-1. Headquarters Building

**Meeting room A (HQ bldg. 2F)**

Virtual meeting link: <https://ceos.my.webex.com/meet/ceoswebex1>

Meeting number: 2554 498 5768

**Expected participants/Target Audience:** LSI-VC members and guests

**Purpose:** To facilitate open discussions between CEOS members in LSI-VC and develop a proposal to provide a framework and interface for CEOS agencies that are interested in unlocking commercial archives for public use. The session will identify established processes, highlight ongoing barriers and future opportunities, and develop a proposal to support users.

**Justification**: It would perhaps be a useful role for the CEOS LSI-VC to maintain a catalogue of archive buyout opportunities from commercial entities. It is well known that commercial value of EO data rapidly declines with time since acquisition, and as such, there is perhaps an opportunity for economical acquisition (through CEOS agency organised negotiation) for CEOS and partner purposes, which are typically longer term in support of global frameworks like the UNFCCC GST, etc. Other cases to consider are when a private sector entity ceases operation – how is their valuable data maintained for the public good.

LSI-VC would need:

* A catalogue of both opportunities and past acquisitions to avoid double paying (this information could perhaps be maintained in the CEOS database?)
* Agreed and consistent wording that could be used in negotiation to clarify the intended purposes (e.g. global frameworks, public good) and necessary licensing terms of the acquired data, etc. (e.g. resulting data should be free and open)
* An understanding of where and how this data could be stored, and any necessary partnerships
* An understanding of whether we would insist on data being CEOS-ARD compliant?
* A name “CEOS Open Data Program”?
* A register for shapefiles/kml areas are released on an openmap/GUI for agencies to explore what data or products are available, which would allow users to explore available products. The coverage map would allow for the current extent of EO data held or known by CEOS agencies.
* Agree to use a quality assessment framework like the NASA CSDA / ESA EDAP process?

Such a framework would reduce duplication of effort/cost (e.g. two CEOS agencies buying the same data for the same purposes) and making these archived EO datasets more open to users. It would promote:

* Economic growth: Open data enables businesses to create new products and services.
* Transparency: Enhances trust in institutions through accountable governance and research.
* Compliance preservation: Archiving data ensures long-term preservation and adherence to retention laws.
* Open archives: Facilitates collaboration and innovation by building on existing research.
* Democratise access: Effective and open access to data, provides tools for effective use of EO data.

Furthermore, the known eventual value of data might encourage increased baseline observation scenario acquisition plans from commercial providers – currently lacking.

**Existing opportunities:**

* JACIE Database
* SPOT World Heritage (SWH) programme initiative to open the SPOT 1-5 archive to users. The L1A archive contains 30 million images acquired by SPOT since 1986.

**Proposed format:**

* Archived images should be subject to creative commons licensing (CC BY)
* CEOS agencies to be engaged with commercial providers to seek out coverage maps as shapefiles/kml where data is available for purchase
* This survey of opportunities could occur on an annual basis, alongside data acquisition for the MIMs database?

**Interface**

* Potential – JACIE/VH-RHODA European and US purchasing frameworks (E.g. Copernicus Contributing Missions)

**Timeframe:**

* Periodic (once a year) compilation of the latest opportunities and acquired datasets

**Risks:**

* Risk of industry not seeing the value of providing a buy once-free data archives, as this financial model does not provide ongoing financial gain.
	+ Potential for industry to move to an archive subscription model (alleviate through proving limited value of archive data, products and services less focused on long term delivery plans (unlocking archived data) vs. relevant services now (what do users want now?)