

## **Euromap Satellitendaten-Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH merges with its parent company GAF AG**

**Munich, Germany, 31.03.2014**

**Following the signing of a merger agreement on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014, Euromap GmbH and GAF AG have officially started the process of merging. Once this tie-up has been completed, Euromap GmbH, which has more than 20 employees, will continue to operate as a branch of GAF registered in Neustrelitz, Germany.**

The Managing Director of Euromap, Dr. Rupert Haydn, and the CEO of GAF, Dr. Peter Volk, are both convinced that the long-planned merger is not only in line with the ever increasing cooperation between the two companies, but also promotes the utilisation of synergies between the two locations. One of the aims is to expand further the company's activities in Neustrelitz. Mr. Marcello Maranesi, CEO of e-GEOS (an ASI/Telespazio Company), the majority shareholder of GAF, also welcomes the merger as it represents a rationalisation of the company's activities in order to better face the challenges of growing in an ever more competitive area of business.

Euromap was founded in 1996 in order to act as the exclusive distribution channel in Europe for data from the Indian Remote Sensing IRS-1C and IRS-1D satellites, which at that time had an unprecedented spatial resolution of 5.8 m. On behalf of Euromap, the German Aerospace Centre's (DLR) technical facilities in Neustrelitz have received and made available the raw data of five Indian satellite missions over the last 18 years. The data acquisition planning, archiving and processing, as well as the European distribution of derived products, is carried out by Euromap. As an SME, GAF was able to use the unique selling point of exclusive data distribution via its wholly owned subsidiary Euromap to achieve above average growth within the course of just a few years of the founding. This helped establish the business as a commercially stable company with a prominent position in Europe.

In addition to data distribution, Euromap has also been managing successful projects in the fields of mass data processing, software development and the thematic analysis of satellite data for several years. These activities will be further developed and expanded at the GAF Neustrelitz office in the future. The exclusive distribution of IRS data in Europe will continue to be carried out as a GAF service using the Euromap brand.

### **About GAF AG**

GAF was founded in 1985 in Munich and was the first German company to focus on applied remote sensing solutions. The majority of the shares in GAF were transferred to Telespazio in 2003 and subsequently to e-GEOS (an ASI/Telespazio company) in 2009. Both companies operate within the Telespazio Group (a Finmeccanica/Thales association) and constitute two of the major European providers of geoinformation products and services.

GAF is the leading distributor of commercial Earth observation data in Germany. Furthermore, GAF has many years of thematic and technical expertise in the application and analysis of remote sensing data, as well as extensive domestic and international experience of offering services involving geodata and geospatial

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software. The company has many good connections and a good reputation at German authorities, government departments and in the private sector in the EU, as well as at the European Space Agency (ESA) and the World Bank. It has been involved in numerous international activities and projects in over 100 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America.

With its approximately 180 employees, the company provides a comprehensive portfolio of data and services, including Earth observation data and other spatial data, data analysis, geographic information systems and databases, information products, and consulting relating to all types of natural resources, the environment, critical infrastructure and security.

### **About Euromap GmbH**

Euromap Satellitendaten-Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH was founded in 1996 as a 100% owned subsidiary of GAF AG in order to create an efficient commercial structure to receive, archive and market Earth observation satellite data in Germany. The future GAF branch combines experience and expertise in data reception and processing with marketing and distribution activities – thus providing the optimal conditions for supporting a growing user-market for remote sensing data. Euromap GmbH is located in Neustrelitz, Germany.

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