

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location of the venue

The meeting will take place in the Château de Namur, Namur. The castle is situated at the summit of the citadel (Citadelle de Namur) in the city centre (<http://www.chateaudenamur.com>).



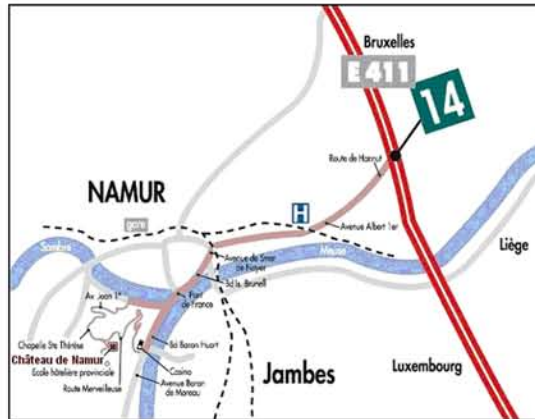
How to get there

By car:

Follow the E411 motorway and take exit 14 (for Namur and Bouge) in the direction of Namur and Dinant. Follow the Meuse river in the direction of Dinant.

At the traffic lights (beneath the railway bridge), turn left and carry straight on at the roundabout. Continue to the second traffic lights, and turn right. Take the second road on the left and drive up through the citadel.

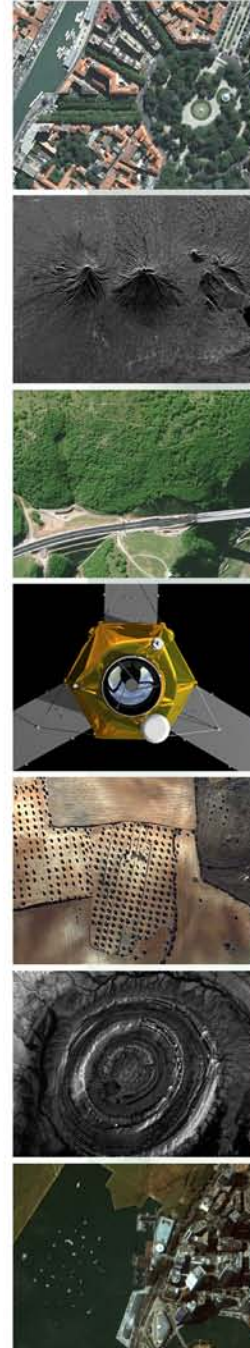
At the crossroads ("Parc Reine Fabiola " / Queen Fabiola Park), take the road opposite and then the first on the left. The Château is on your left.



By train:

Take the train until the station of Namur. At the exit of the station, take the bus n°3 (direction Citadelle) place de la Station (schedule of the buses: 8h08, 9h08) to the stop "citadelle milieu du monde". The travel by bus takes 10 minutes and at the exit the castle is on the street "rue de l'Hermitage". It is also possible to take a taxi in front of the station for less than 10€.

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Invitation

Belgian
Earth Observation Day

February 12, 2008

Location: Namur, Belgium

BELGIAN SCIENCE POLICY



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INTRODUCTION

In 2001, the Belgian Government launched the programme "STEREO: Support to the exploitation and research of earth observation data". Since the launch of the programme annual meetings have been organised intended as a forum where the Belgian players in the field of remote sensing could meet, present and discuss their work.

Since the last such meeting, the second phase of the STEREO programme started and a new programme, ORFEO, was introduced. This programme is run in cooperation with France.

This year's meeting will centre on the results of the ORFEO programme. To put the research in perspective, the presentations by Belgian scientists will be bookended by presentations by representatives of CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales – France). In addition, the projects selected last year for the first call of the STEREO II programme will be presented briefly, both orally and in a poster session.

ORFEO

Support programme for the use of "ORFEO" data (Optical and Radar Federated Earth Observation)

This programme is part of Belgium's participation in the French Earth Observation Programme "Pleiades".

The "Pleiades" system is made up of two optical satellites with very high spatial resolution. The aim of the system is to cover European needs for very high resolution optical data for both civil and military activities, as well as for research and applications of a commercial or public service nature.

The "Pleiades" component is complementary to the Italian radar component operating in the X band, "COSMO-Skymed". Together they form a dual system for Earth observation with metric resolution known as ORFEO (Optical and Radar Federated Earth Observation).

The ORFEO Support Programme has been set up to prepare for, support and promote the exploitation of the images from these sensors.

Programme description

The ORFEO systems offer new capacities and performance levels: high optical and radar resolution, access capacity, data quality, and the possibility of joint optical and radar acquisitions. This new data leads to the need for new methodological developments: new processing methods and the adaptation of existing methods. In addition, to meet the needs of end users, a close collaboration with them is ongoing to take account of their specifications and to integrate the new products into their systems.

The ORFEO Support Programme has two sections, between which there is a strong interaction:

- The **methodology section's objective** is to define and develop the tools needed for the operational exploitation of the future sub-metric optical and radar images. The subjects dealt with in this section mainly concentrate on three-dimensional aspects, detection of changes, texture analysis, shape recognition, and the complementary nature of optical and radar images. This section is being developed mainly through R&D studies and doctoral and post-doctoral research. In Belgium, six projects are underway and will be presented.
- The **thematic section** covers a wide range of applications (civil and military) and aims to specify and validate value-added products and services needed by users.



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STEREO II

Support to Exploitation and Research in Earth Observation

The goal of this programme is to develop an autonomous Belgian earth observation expertise of international level as a contribution to its knowledge economy. The first call for scientific proposals of the programme took place in 2006. The 14 projects selected will be presented.

Scientific research

Research focusses on following topics:

- Global monitoring of vegetation and changes in large terrestrial ecosystems
- Environmental management (water, soil, forests, agriculture, coastal areas, urban areas and suburban areas)
- Health and humanitarian aid
- Security and risk management

Three types of projects are financed: large thematic networks, smaller satellite projects and development of products and services.

Valorisation

STEREO II puts a lot of emphasis on the promotion of its scientific results and of remote sensing as a whole. The Earth Observation HelpDesk is the hub of this activity. Its brandnew website (<http://eo.belspo.be>), is both a user-friendly tool for the teams involved in the programme and an open door to the general public and international scientific community.

REGISTRATION

Participants must register **before 25 january** as the number of participants is limited.

Participation is free of charge.

For registration and additional information, please contact:

Chantal Oudaerts
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1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 23 83 410
e-mail: namur@belspo.be

Participants wanting to stay overnight can book a room at the Chateau (the number of rooms is limited).

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

08.45 Registration

09.15 Welcoming address

Jean-Christophe Schyns (Belgian Science Policy)

Introduction of STEREO team

ORFEO (part I)

9.25 Pleiades and the French Orfeo programme

Helene DeBoissezon (CNES)

10.00 Artefact detection in object-based image/vector comparison (ASSIMIV)

Julien Radoux (UCL) and Pierre Defourny (UCL)

10.25 Change detection for updates of vector database through region-based classification of VHR satellite data (CHADE)

Carleer Alexandre (ULB) and Eléonore Wolff (ULB)

10.50 Coffee break

STEREO II

11.05 Short presentation of STEREO II projects

12.20 Poster session

12.45 Lunch

ORFEO (part II)

14.00 Automatic extraction of man-made structures from VHR optical and SAR data for change detection (EMSOR)

Vito Alberga (RMA)

14.25 Multimodal Georeferencing of 3D VHR Optical and X-Band SAR (GEMITOR)

Antonella Belmonte (CSL)

14.50 Object-based image processing of VHR imagery for olive tree mapping and inventory (SYNOPRA)

Frieké Van Coillie (UGent), Lieven Verbeke (UGent) and Robert De Wulf (UGent)

15.15 Coffee break

15.40 Combination of satellite-derived raster and vector data for 3D city modelling (URMO3D)

Dennis Devriendt (UGent), Rudi Goossens (UGent) and Tharwat Ghabour (NRC-Egypt)

16.05 New methodological developments

Jordi Inglada (CNES)

The official language of the meeting is English.

