THE STEREO III PROGRAMME
and
THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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FELUY (BEOdayS) – 19 November 2013
Introduction

- **15 November 2012**: Council of Ministers approves implementation of Belgian Space Strategy in preparation of the ESA Ministerial Council of 20 and 21 November in Naples
- This includes Space Programmes outside of ESA, of which STEREO III is part
- **19 September 2013**: State Secretary of Science Policy approves STEREO III programme proposal
STEREO III = **Support to the Exploitation and Research in Earth Observation**

- **Duration**: 2014 – 2020
- **Budget**: 28.6 M EURO
- Duration in line with EC’s Horizon 2020 programme
- Launch of the first call for proposals in 2013
STEREO III: Objectives

- Support innovative quality research in the field of remote sensing
- Stimulate the development of new remote sensing applications
- Keep/put Belgium on the map as international centre of expertise in a number of remote sensing fields
- Secure integration of Belgian teams in international partnerships
- Support Belgium’s RS instruments/platforms
- Introduce use of remote sensing in new disciplines and to new users
- Promote remote sensing
Thematic focus

In line with GMES/Copernicus (terrestrial and marine) and STEREO II

1. Global monitoring of vegetation and evolution of terrestrial ecosystems

2. Management of the environment on a local and regional scale (water, soil, forest, nature reserves and biodiversity, agriculture, coastal areas, urban and peri-urban areas)

3. Interaction between (change in) land cover and climate change

4. Epidemiology and humanitarian aid

5. Security and risk management
Programme focus

- Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- Development of applications
- International networking
- Use of data from “Belgian” sensors (PROBA V or PLEIADES)
- Support of BELAIR site
- Support of new technologies such as LIDAR, UAV,
- Production of quality papers

...
Programme implementation

• First call in line with on-going STEREO II priorities and practices (timing issue)

• Remainder of programme to be elaborated in concertation with STEREO Committee and on basis of outcome of STEREO II evaluation
  ▪ Relative weight of programme elements
  ▪ Relative weight of project types
  ▪ Prioritisation of most promising research fields and topics
  ▪ Establishment of calendar of calls
  ▪ ...

Overview of Programme Structure

- Research
  1. Thematic network projects
  2. Exploration projects
  3. Shared cost projects
- Development of applications
- Support of research and Belgian infrastructure and applications
- EODesk services
1. **Thematic network projects**
   - Duration: 4-5 years
   - Min. 3 teams
   - Ranging from fundamental research to development of applications
   - International partner mandatory

2. **Exploration projects**
   - Duration: 1-3 years
   - Small scale projects
   - 1-3 teams
   - Objectives:
     - Test new concepts, technologies and sensors
     - Test new research track resulting from previous BELSPO RS linked research
3. Shared cost projects

- Outside call for proposals
- Funding of Belgian partners in projects selected for international, bilateral, national or regional projects (e.g. BRAINS.be)
- Funding of Belgian participation in transnational programmes such as ERA-nets
- Project subject to the same rules as other research projects (contract, reports, steering committees...)
Development of applications

- Subject of call for proposals
- Evaluation by international peers
- Transfer of technology or knowledge from scientific partner(s) to company, administration, NGO
- Request from an Administration, NGO’s or Company
- Based on verifiable user need
- Duration max. 3 years
- Max 3 scientific partners
Support of research and Belgian infrastructure and applications

- Support to “Belgian” RS instruments and infrastructure, e.g. organisation dedicated APEX campaigns, support to Copernicus Collaborative Ground Segments, ...

- Extension of BELAIR test sites

- Website for the Acquisition of Pleiades data: 
EODesk services

• Acquisition of RS imagery for BELSPO projects
• Management of websites [eo.belspo.be](http://eo.belspo.be) for scientists [eodedu.belspo.be](http://eodedu.belspo.be) for a wide public (information on RS and RS activities with a focus on Belgium)
• Development of educational products or contribution to 3rd party educational products
• Promotion of RS and valorisation of research results of Belgian scientists via posters, workshops and exhibitions in Belgium and abroad
• All types of imagery and sites might be used but preference for:
  – Pléiades, SPOT, VGT, PROBA-V, APEX, ...
  – In Belgium: BELAIR sites
  – In general: sites already used in previous (BELSPO) projects (for teams previous involved in BELSPO projects)
Total budget: 9 M€

Two types of projects:

1. Research projects: Thematic network projects
2. Development of applications

No prior budget breakdown between the two types of projects
First call

Timing:

- Submission DOI: 6 December 2013
- Feedback on DOI: 13 December 2013
- Submission proposal: 24 January 2014
- Oral defence: Mid-March 2014
- Selection of proposals: End of March 2014
- Start of the contracts: June 2014
Thematic network projects

- Duration: 4-5 years
- Min. 3 teams and max 6 teams (International partner mandatory)
- Project coordinated by a Belgian team (active in RS)
- Fundamental research and/or development of applications
- Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- International partner: substantial scientific contribution
- Special focus: PhD’s and papers
- Mid-term steering committee
- Workshop at the end
## Total budget of the project

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgian partners (2-5)</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>International partner (Stereo budget)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total STEREO Budget</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget provided by the international partner</td>
<td>20%</td>
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- Call for Belgian universities, public scientific institutions and non-profit research institutions
- Luxembourgian partner = Belgian partner if positive decision by FNR
## Budget breakdown by partner

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<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>60% (at least)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Operations (fixed sum)</td>
<td>10% (of the staff cost)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15% (for the coordinator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Specific operations</td>
<td>Analysis, workshops, publications, surveys or maintenance of equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Subcontracting</td>
<td>25% (maximum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Overheads</td>
<td>5% (staff + operations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total STEREO Budget</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>International collaboration</td>
<td>20% (of the total budget of the project!!!)</td>
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Y: must be justified  
N: must not be justified  
I: Invoice  
L: Listing of expenses
Development of applications

- Based on verifiable need (request from the user)
- Duration max. 3 years
- Concerns products, services, software code, procedures, ...
- Transfer of technology or knowledge from scientific partner(s) to company and NGO based in Belgium administration
- The user must coordinate the project
- Teams: 1 coordinator + max 3 scientific teams, international partner optional
## Total budget of the project

### Administrations or NGO’s

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific partners (1-3)</td>
<td>75% (at least)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration or NGO (Stereo budget)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total STEREO Budget</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget provided by the administration or NGO</td>
<td>25%</td>
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### Private companies

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total STEREO Budget (scientific partners)</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget provided by the company</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Image acquisition policy

- Chargeable to the programme (not to the project)
- Budget requested in line with the budget of the project
- Images are the property of BELSPO
- Archiving of the images available for other STEREO projects
Proposal submission

Two-step process

1. Submission of a Declaration of Interest
   (6 December 2013)
   Non binding Feedback by BELSPO
   - Compliance with the rules of the call
   - Assistance with partner search

2. Submission of actual proposal
   (24 January 2014)
Ex-ante evaluation research proposals

- Written peer review by min. 3, preferably 4 international experts
- Rejection of proposals below threshold score
- Oral defense to review panel composed of 6 international experts (Mid-March 2014)
- Selection of the best proposals based on the written and oral evaluation and budget available
- Approval by STEREO II steering committee + IF + State secretary

Possibility to reject non-conform proposals (no evaluation)
Scientific projects

- Compliance with call
- Scientific quality
- Calibre of the applicants (publication, website, valorisation)
- Exploitation plan
- Feasibility
- Quality partnership
- Dissemination and publication plan
Specific for development of Applications

- User need (clear request from the non-scientific partner)
- Faisibility
- Implementation or business plan
- Involvement users
Project management

- Redaction of contract
- Submission of initial report (after 3 months)
- Submission of activity report (after 1 year and each year)
- Organization of Steering committee
- Final report (including paper manuscripts and suitable illustrations and texts for valorisation)

For thematic research projects:

- Mid-term steering committee
- Last steering committee adapted