THE STEREO III PROGRAMME

• Support to the Exploitation and Research in Earth Observation

• Belgian remote sensing research programme

• Duration: 2014-2021

• Budget: ± 28 M€
THEMATIC PRIORITIES

• *Both global and local*

• Terrestrial and aquatic environments

• Interaction between (change in) land cover and climate change

• Epidemiology and humanitarian aid

• Security and risk management
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

- RESEARCH
- RESEARCH SUPPORT
  - BELAIR site
  - Toolbox
  - Sensor support
- RESEARCH DISSEMINATION
- EDUCATION AND PROMOTION
  eo.belspo.be
  eoedu.belspo.be
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE: RESEARCH SUPPORT

• Activities beneficial to the entire Belgian RS community
  o by encouraging collaboration or
  o by making data and software accessible

• Key activities: STEREO Toolbox and BELAIR site
THE BELAIR PROJECT

Aim

• Systematic collection of in situ and RS (airborne and satellite) data over a Belgian multi-site for:
  ▪ Joint innovative thematic research to strengthen research capabilities (algorithm development, thematic validation, etc.)
  ▪ PhD and MSc theses
  ▪ Calibration and validation of RS missions and products

Concept

▪ Belair only finances data collection
▪ Research to be carried out in framework of ongoing (STEREO) projects or MSC/PhD theses
THE BELAIR PROJECT (cont’d)

**DATA:**
- Unique data sharing between Belgian researchers via dedicated portal site
- Data available for all (Belgian/international) after restricted period

**FIRST STAGE:**
- Thus far: campaign in 2013 and 2015
- Bottom-up approach (researchers propose sites and research activities)
- 19 teams
- 2015 budget: 320 k€
BELAIR 2015 - Sites

- **Hesbania**: crops and soil
- **Litora**: coast and biodiversity
- **Sonia**: urban and forestry
BELAIR 2015 - Partners

- **BELAIR promotors**: in situ-measurements and research
  - Coordinators
    - HESBANIA: Stéphanie Delalieux
    - LITORA: Liesbeth De Keukelaere
    - SONIA: Boud Verbeiren

- **BELSPO**: overall management and acquisition of RS data (Pléiades, Deimos, ..)

- **VITO**: acquisition and processing of airborne data and hosting portal site (http://belair.vgt.vito.be)
OUTCOME BELAIR 2013 CAMPAIGN

- Lot of field work done
- Unique sharing of data and equipment between Belgian researchers
- Part cal/val underdeveloped
- Not always enough synergy between activities teams sharing a subsite
- Data not always fully used (due to lack of additional funding)
- Cumbersome administrative and financial project management
TODAY’S AGENDA

• This morning
  ➢ Presentation of results of the 2015 BELAIRM campaign

• This afternoon
  ➢ For BELSPO, promoters and experts: discussion and evaluation
  ➢ For BELSPO and experts: recommendation about a next phase
  ➢ For other participants: site visit
QUESTIONs FOR DISCUSSION

EVALUATION OF PAST ACTIVITIES

- do the Belgian sites have what it takes to be a proper site for cal/val and joint research? What is missing?
- do the protocols used for in situ measurements guarantee sufficient quality for cal/val purposes?
- do we acquire the right data (in situ, airborne and satellite) for cal/val and research purposes and with the right frequency?
- is a proper joint research going on?
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (cont’d)

**Future activities**
- do we have to maintain the double focus (cal/val vs. joint research)?
- what should be the thematic focus for a next phase? (agriculture, biodiversity, water, …) (quid marine?)
- should all sites be maintained?
- should other sites be integrated?

**Outreach**
- are the BELAIR data interesting for future satellite missions?
- how can the promotion strategy (international sensor developers, uptake by scientists and projects) be improved?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION