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FEDERAL SCIENCE POLICY

RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR EARTH OBSERVATION STEREO IV

(SUPPORT TO EXPLOITATION AND RESEARCH IN EARTH OBSERVATION)

DISSEMINATION AND SUPPORT (DISSUP) PROJECTS:

CALL FOR IPERLITE DATA USE PROPOSALS:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:	20/11/2026

INTRODUCTION

- This document features information for researchers wishing to take part in thecall for IPERLITE data use in the frame of Dissemination and Support (DISSUP) proposals of the "STEREO IV programme".

- For general information about the STEREO calls (thematic priorities, programme structure and implementation, projects implementation and budget breakdown) please consult the general information package.

- Proposals should be written in English.

- Applicants are required to observe the rules laid down in the information packages for this call, otherwise their proposals cannot be taken into account by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office.

- **Proposals must reach the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office no later than 20 November 2026 at 4 PM**

For further details about the programme and this call for proposals, please get in touch with:

Jean-Christophe Schyns – tel: 02/23 83 591 – e-mail: schy@belspo.be
Joost Vandenabeele – tel: 02/23 83 523 – e-mail: vdab@belspo.be

For technical questions about the IPERLITE mission and data contact:

Martine Paepen – e-mail: martine.paepen@vito.be
Sindy Sterckx – e-mail: sindy.sterckx@vito.be

1 OBJECT OF THIS CALL

DISSUP projects are small short-term projects with a maximum duration of 6 months and a budget not exceeding 30.000 €.This dedicated call is for the use and exploitation of IPERLITE data and is aimed at supporting and raising the visibility of the Belgian IPERLITE satellite mission.

1.1 THE IPERLITE MISSION

IPERLITE is a Belgian Earth observation satellite mission launched in November 2025. Initiated by VITO and Aerospacelab, the mission is managed and funded by the European Space Agency (ESA), with support from the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO).

The satellite is built around Aerospacelab's VSP-150 platform and carries advanced instruments and technologies developed by Belgian partners AMOS, DELTATEC, imec and SPACEBEL.

Its main payload is CSIMBA (Compact Smartspectral Imager for Monitoring Bio-agricultural Areas), a hyperspectral imaging instrument capable of capturing Earth observation data at a spatial resolution of 20 metres across 154 spectral bands.

IPERLITE data are processed by VITO and made available through the TERRASCOPE Earth observation platform. As an in-orbit demonstration mission, IPERLITE does not provide systematic global coverage. Instead, it acquires targeted hyperspectral imagery in response to user acquisition requests.

CSIMBA data characteristics

- **Spectral range:** 133 bands spanning 450–900 nm.
- **Spatial resolution and swath width:** 20 m ground sampling distance (GSD) across an 80 km swath.
- **Daily acquisition capacity:** Approximately 17,500 km².
- **Potential applications:** Agriculture, forestry, biodiversity monitoring, water management, land cover mapping, climate studies and environmental assessment.

- **Processing levels:**
    - **Level 1C:** Georeferenced hyperspectral Top-of-Atmosphere (TOA) reflectance data.
    - **Level 2A:** Atmospherically corrected Top-of-Canopy (TOC) reflectance data.
- **Data format:** GeoTIFF.

For more information, please consult this webpage.

1.2 DELIVERABLES

The expected outcome is a paper, a presentation at a relevant conference, a use case to be published on the TERRASCOPE platform, a webinar or any combination of the afore mentioned. Other forms of dissemination are also encouraged.

2 WHO CAN GET FUNDING?

- Following **Belgian** organisations qualify for funding of a DISSUP IPERLITE data use project:
    - Universities
    - Public research institutions
    - Non-profit research institutions

3 BUDGET AND PAYMENT

- The budget is maximum 30 000 € per project and 4 to 5 proposals will be granted. Proposals must be submitted before the deadline mentioned on the front page of this document.

- Selected projects will be granted a lump sum. Preferably one single applicant should submit a proposal and will conclude a contract with the funding agency. Other applicant might join in but will not receive directly from the funding agency. In this case, only the lead applicant

signs the contract and is responsible for distributing the funding to the other partners if applicable.

- The total amount will be paid based on an invoice and after approval of final report by the programme managers.

4 SUBMISSION

- Proposals should be submitted solely via the form intended for this purpose, which can be accessed via the BELSPO website and the STEREO website https://eo.belspo.be/en/stereo-calls-proposals
- Applicants are required to meet the conditions set forth in the information documents.
- Proposals should be submitted in English.
- Only a digital word version of the proposal should be submitted to the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office via e-mail to schy@belspo.be and vdab@belspo.be.

5 SELECTION

The proposals are first evaluated by ESA for scientific value and VITO for technical feasibility and then recommended for funding by the STEREO Programme Board based on the evaluation result and budget available.