

Airbus Defence and Space (former Spot-Image and EADS Astrium), through its Intelligence Business Cluster, operates Earth Observation satellites and developed applications and value-added services from images for more than 30 years. Airbus Defense and Space operates SPOT (1,5 m resolution) and Pléiades (0,5 m resolution) optical satellites as well as TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X radar satellites.

Since July of 2010, CompassData started providing photo-identifiable Ground Control Points (GCPs) to Airbus Defense and Space.

Ground Control Points anchor raw satellite images with a ground truth to enhance the absolute georeference to decimeter accuracy. Whereas satellites freely orbit the Earth regardless of political boundaries, the task of measuring GCPs is done by real surveyors travelling across political and cultural boundaries.

CompassData has successfully dispatched their survey crews over 60 countries to measure over 2,300 accurate GCPs in support of Airbus sensor calibration and orthoimage accurate production.

Project areas span from Tierra del Fuego, the southern tip of Argentina, up to the Arctic Circle region in Canada including almost all countries in between on the American continents and most of the islands in the Caribbean and the vast Pacific.

CompassData globally provided feet on the ground in five continents including some logistically challenging places like Iran, Myanmar, Russia or Yemen.

Airbus DS testimony:

“We used archive and new collect CompassData’s GCPs to produce accurate orthoimages around airports based on Pléiades imagery. CompassData’s GCPs were used as well successfully for some Mapping defence projects where the accuracy and the reliability of the service are critical.

Our production team appreciates the professional dataflow from CompassData, especially the customized and standardized deliveries. Deliveries were in accordance with our expected deadlines and very quick turn-arounds of GCPs were made possible by the existing CompassData GCP Archive helping us to meet our delivery timelines and priorities. CompassData’s professionals are attentive to our remarks and feedback supporting Airbus efforts for continuous improvement of our products to meet customer requirements.

CompassData is a recommendable GCP provider.”



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