

## Space solutions for river deltas workshop

***On 3 June, the 2016 European Space Solutions event features a workshop on how river deltas and related areas can benefit from European satellite navigation and Earth observation information.***

There's a lot happening at the world's busy river deltas. On the one hand, these areas are hotspots for trade, industry, agriculture and urbanisation. On the other hand, they often exhibit both a high level of biodiversity and a fragile ecosystem. Trying to balance the need to protect the environment while maintaining the utility of river deltas is an ongoing challenge.

Space solutions can play a significant role in addressing such challenges. From providing interoperability across navigational areas and corresponding positioning, to monitoring land erosion and pollution, detecting illegal discharge and tracking environmental emergencies such as floods or oil spills, European global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) and Earth observation programmes, including Galileo, the European Geostationary Navigational Overlay Service (EGNOS) and Copernicus, are already having a substantial impact on the development and management of Europe's river deltas.

For example, the Horizon 2020-funded spyGLASS project is developing a Passive Bistatic Radar (PBR) based on Galileo transmissions for maritime surveillance. The use of existing transmissions for PBR applications is already becoming increasingly popular due to their low costs, covert operation and minimal level of pollution – benefits that will all be enhanced with the addition of Galileo.

To help European industry better understand – and access – this lucrative market, on 3 June the European Commission and the GSA, under the auspices of the Dutch Council Presidency, are organising a special session on 'Space Solutions for river deltas as part of the European Space Solutions Conference.

The Focus Session will address river observation, the latest in international waterway policy, using Earth observation to maintain large river deltas, case studies from the Netherlands and Venice, underwater positioning, river traffic surveillance and soil moisture observations – among others.

The session will feature speakers from the European Union, national river and waterway agencies and organisations, the GSA, and a range of various research institutions and related businesses. Users from both the public and private domains are encouraged to attend.

More information and registration is available [european-space-solutions.eu](http://european-space-solutions.eu).