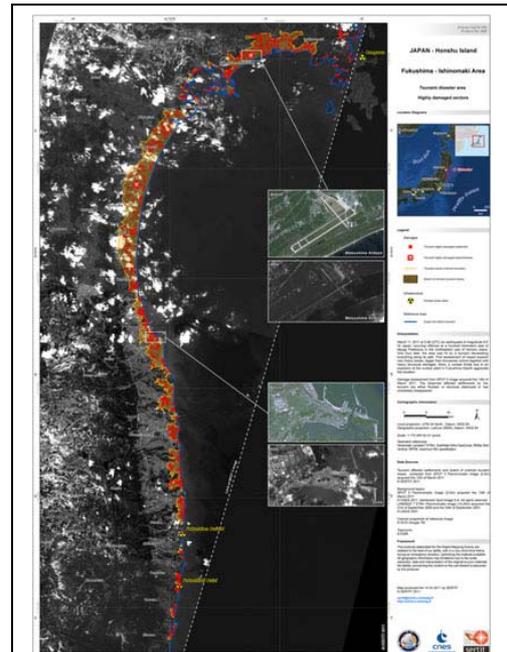


Emergency response to disasters: SERTIT's rapid mapping service obtains an ISO 9001 certification

Over 10 years of development, more than 100 activations worldwide, and greater than 1000 crisis maps, SERTIT, part of the University of Strasbourg, is making a step forward in its will to best serve managers of major disasters within the public sector. The service has now the ISO 9001 certification for its knowhow under the following commitment: "Production and publication within 6 hours after reception of the first satellite data of crisis geo-information for civil protection agencies".

This new advance forms part of the service's development plan which is heavily supported by the local authorities: Région Alsace, Urban Community of Strasbourg, the Bas-Rhin General Council and with the French State through a State-Region framework contract which aims to increase the solidity of SERTIT's infrastructure. Hence, work to build a crisis room will begin while the reworking of SERTIT's rapid mapping service's IT support is on-going.



**Japon March 2011 :
Damage assessment map: 200 km of
coastline covered in 5hrs 58mins**



A 24/7/365 on-call team

This certification comes at a time when the team's determination to become a pillar of the European Response to natural and industrial disaster management will be challenged by the GIO ("GMES Initial Operations") European Commission tender for providing an "Emergency Management Service" over the next 3 years. SERTIT reaffirms its total determination, its proven capabilities and henceforth its certification to become a pillar of the future « European Disaster Response Capacity (EDRC) », which Madam Kristalina Georgieva Commissioner responsible for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response wants to see established.

Paul de Fraipont Director of SERTIT: "This success shows both *the excellence of our skills and SERTIT's commitment to its users.*"



A committed and experienced team

In fact, the certification being based on the systematic production of crisis maps in less than 6 hours is a real challenge that we meet through the mobilisation of the whole team around the service's project. This strong dedication to a quality approach aims to reinforce the confidence of our users, thanks to our organization's greater transparency which is now certified by an internationally recognised standard. "

Jean-Marc Jeltsch, vice-president of the University of Strasbourg in charge of business partnerships

"This initiative of SERTIT is emblematic of the University of Strasbourg's wish to serve society through teaching and research. We are very proud to have within our midst a service of public utility such as SERTIT; it personifies our University's ambition by proving that it is possible to be both a research centre of excellence and a leader in the production of quality services obeying industrial standards".

SERTIT is a University of Strasbourg service. During major disasters, it produces maps derived from satellite data as a decision support aid which is immediately useable by the crisis managers such as the French Civil Protection. More broadly, SERTIT harnesses Space to serve the Earth by intervening during crises thanks to its 24/7 operational rapid mapping capacities, but also overtime by offering solutions to sustainable development challenges: natural resource management, epidemiological monitoring,...

The maps produced by SERTIT's rapid mapping service can be browsed at the following address:

http://sertit.u-strasbg.fr/SITE_RMS/RMS/RMS_accueil_2011_V4.html