

TERMS OF REFERENCE of the EARSC Best Practices Working Group

1. Background and Purpose

The European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC) is a not-for-profit European organization which coordinates and promotes activities of their members in the area of services based on the delivery of geo-information products on customer demand. (<http://www.earsc.eu/>).

As part of recent activities, EARSC has decided to look at issues relating to quality and product certification for the industry. To this end, a Best Industry Practices Working Group has been established to form policy and define working practices to enhance the perception and performance of the remote sensing industry.

2. Objectives

The Working Group has the following objectives:

- Identify and define best industry working practices
- Disseminate best practices across the industry
- Provide EARSC members with a focal point for problem solving and identification of common industry processes.

3. Remit

The Working Group has the following remit:

- Definition of policies and standards relating to best industry practices
- Generate and publish documentation on behalf of EARSC Board and Membership with respect to best practices, including documentation relating to engineering and quality standards
- Represent EARSC membership at conferences and on such committees and working group that have a bearing on industry practices
- Establish and manage conferences and workshops to assist in the definition of best working practices for the industry and communicate resulting information to all EARSC Members

- Act as a point of contact for national and European initiatives relating to the Remote Sensing industry and its practices (for example ESA, QA4EO, GMES, etc)
- Identify and exploit sources of funding to assist in the execution of its remit

The Output should be:

- *A Reference set / Repository of industry Best Practices and Standards from different market segments and services related to common EO data products and services.*
- *A Certification Scheme for the basic common EO data products and services used for and in a wide range of applications not interfering with existing Standards and Best Practices generally applicable in a market segment or thematic field of service.*

4. Composition and Reporting

The Working Group shall be chaired by a member of EARSC and consist of a manageable number of EARSC members covering the widest range of organisations possible.

The Chair of the Working Group can request and engage such expert assistance that may be required to address specific subjects. Where possible, this shall be from within EARSC Members.

The Working Group shall report to the EARSC Board at each Board meeting via the Working Group Chairman

5. Duration

The Working Group has no fixed duration, but its activities should be reviewed on a regular basis (i.e. annually).