



# INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

## RACURS REPORTS ON THE 9TH ISTC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAMMETRIC TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE IN GREECE

The IX<sup>th</sup> International Scientific and Technical Conference '*From Imagery to Map: Digital Photogrammetric Technologies*' was successfully completed in October 2009. Each year the conference is held in a new country and this year was the turn of Attica, the Greek peninsula 30 km from Athens. The Conference was organized by Russian firm Racurs Co., with support of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and the Russian GIS-Association. Sponsors included NP AGP (Meridian+, Russia), FSUE (Goszemcadastrsyoimka), VISHAGI (Russia), GeoEye (USA), and FSUE (Uralgeoinform, Russia).

The conference provided ample opportunities for discussion, knowledge and experience exchange in the sphere of remote sensing and digital photogrammetric technologies. Over 100 leaders and specialists of industrial enterprises and institutes from 20 countries, all who use remote sensing data and photogrammetric processing in their daily practice, attended the conference this year. For the first time the conference was attended by representatives from the Republic of South Africa and Thailand.

The Conference schedule included plenary sessions, business meetings, workshops, and a rich entertainment program. In all, 42 speeches were delivered by experts from 11 countries. The conference opened with welcome speeches by Colonel Ioannis Kolovos, Director of Hellenic Military Geographical Service (HGMS), and

Professor Andreas Georgopoulos, President of Hellenic Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (HSPRS).

In the first section titled 'Regional and Corporate Mapping, Common Photogrammetric Problems', delegates from Bulgaria, Russia, Greece, Germany, and India described the major achievements and current state of mapping, cadastral and photogrammetric services in their countries.

The second block was dedicated to digital camera and aerial equipment. Most reports made by representatives of companies manufacturing large-format cameras were devoted to medium-format cameras. For example, Peter Schreiber (Leica Geosystems AG, Switzerland) spoke mostly about the RCD100 mapping camera and Mikhail Petukhov (Intergraph, Moscow Representative office) presented the RMK product line. These medium-format cameras, less expensive and more accessible for small companies, are aimed at taking aerial photographs of extended or small-sized objects.

The third thematic section was devoted to photogrammetric processing of digital aerial and close range images, with reports by delegates from Russia, Greece, and Bulgaria. Andrey Sechin (Scientific Director, Racurs Co., Russia) spoke about the fifteen-year history of DPS PHOTOMOD from version 1 to the latest 5.0 version. Professor Andreas Georgopoulos (NTUA, Greece) described his experience of using DPS PHOTOMOD at a photogrammetric



laboratory. Yulia Nikolaeva and Katerina Chucheva's report (GIS-Sofia, Bulgaria) described a large project of making an orthophotomap of Sofia, in which 7,000 Intergraph DMC images were processed with DPS PHOTOMOD.

The second day of the conference was devoted to satellite imaging. Andrey Shumakov (GeoEye, USA), Bruno Bertolini (SPOT Image, France), Pawel Ziemia (Digital Globe, Poland) presented their reports in a section titled 'Modern Space Remote Sensing

Data and Their Usage'. They spoke about existing RDS satellites and the ones planned for launch in the future.

The third block of the second day was devoted to remote sensing data based mapping, and participants learned about creating orthophotomaps based on Resurs DK-1 images (Marina Sinkova, Zemlemer, Russia), about RSD practice in JSCo RZD (Alexander Vasileyskiy, NIIAS, Russia) and JSCo Gazprom (Yuri Baranov, Gazprom VNIIGAZ, Russia).

Day three was devoted to the PHOTOMOD system. Racurs Co. staff presented version 5.0, improving the level of automation and productivity, followed by a master-class where PHOTOMOD 5.0 was demonstrated in action and new enhanced capabilities of the PHOTOMOD Radar were shown to the audience.

A special two-hour seminar for employees of Hellenic Military Geographical Service was also held. This year the prize – PHOTOMOD GeoMosaic 4.4 – went to GIS-Sofia (Bulgaria) for the project 'Large-scale Orthophotomap of the City of Sofia' (2008) performed with the digital photogrammetric PHOTOMOD system.

The closing ceremony was a festive banquet. The way to the feast lay across evening Athens where the participants visited the Acropolis Museum – one of the world's most outstanding collections of antique sculpture. Visiting an observation deck where the participants could enjoy a panoramic view of grand Acropolis and night-time Athens was the final stop on the evening outing. The most exciting part of the gala dinner was a lottery where anyone could win the Russian or English edition of the PHOTOMOD software. The lucky winners were Pogorelov Viacheslav from North Caucasian Aerogeodetic Enterprise (Russia) and Robert Lanzl from Infoterra GmbH (Germany).

*More information about the Conference is at the Web sites <http://www.racurs.ru/Greece2009> and <http://www2.racurs.ru/Greece2009>*



## ■ Geographic Information Systems

### Study for the award of Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or MSc through online distance learning

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- takes one year for the PG Certificate, two years for the PG Diploma and a further year for the MSc.

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Further details regarding the programme may be obtained from:

**Dr Sally Cook, Course Director, School of Environmental Sciences, University of Ulster, Cromore Road, Coleraine, BT52 1SA, Northern Ireland.**

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For an online application form and further information, visit:

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