

Dear colleagues,

As you are aware, it was proposed to hold a C-SIGMA II workshop during the period 16 – 18 May in Lerici, Italy. This was intended to be a follow-on from the initial workshop held at ESA-ESRIN in June 2011. The scope of the workshop was to address both scientific developments related to satellite based maritime security and implementation approaches for the C-SIGMA initiative. The Lerici workshop will now be a one day event on May 18 which focuses on C-SIGMA implementation.

We have had several indications that many people would be interested to participate and discuss how implementation could be achieved but this should be based on concrete implementation options that represent a significant advance over the current, extremely preliminary, concepts and ideas in relation to how an initiative such as C-SIGMA could be set up and provide reliable support to operational maritime security agencies.

At the same time, due to the number of conferences already covering satellite based maritime surveillance and the extreme difficulty in accessing travel budget during the present economic conditions, we have received only a small number of abstracts in relation to the scientific component of the C-SIGMA initiative.

We therefore are taking the following approach to continue to move the C-SIGMA initiative forward:

- 1) We note that the SeaSAR workshop is being held in Tromsø, Norway from 18 – 22 June. An abstract will be submitted to this workshop which will contain an elaboration of possible implementation approaches for C-SIGMA with respect to technical scope now and over the next 5 – 10 years, roles and responsibilities of key organisations, funding structures and management and coordination approaches. This will be circulated to you all for comment prior to the workshop (assuming the paper is accepted). We have received approval for a dedicated parallel session on C-SIGMA research and development issues during the SeaSAR workshop. In addition, persons interested in C-SIGMA could also submit abstracts for sessions on vessel detection and tracking or ocean surface monitoring and pollution control. The deadline for abstracts is 18 February and abstracts should be submitted at the following website. <http://earth.eo.esa.int/workshops/seasar2012/>
- 2) The smaller meeting on 18 May in Lerici will be dedicated to moving forward with the C-SIGMA initiative. We will have a draft version of the implementation approach by this time and we would expect to refine possibilities for dedicated trials and verification exercises in priority operational sectors and geographic regions. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting, but we ask that you register to enable us to plan suitable logistics support. If you wish to attend please register at this website <http://geos3.nurc.nato.int/CSIGMA/>. In preparation for this one-day workshop, the same website will be used to host a wiki which will serve as a forum for exchange of ideas leading up to the workshop. Please register for an account if you wish to participate in this forum, whether or not you can attend the 18 May implementation workshop.
- 3) When significant progress has been achieved with the C-SIGMA implementation plan, we will organise a follow-on C-SIGMA II workshop. This will cover progress in science and

research elements and the implementation approach. More information on this will be provided after the meeting of 18 May.

We apologise if this causes any inconvenience but we believe strongly that this is the most pragmatic approach over the coming months given the current financial situation and the on-going evolution in maritime security issues.

Looking forward to seeing you at these upcoming events.

Yours sincerely,

*Global Maritime Security/Collaboration in Space for International Global Maritime Awareness (C-SIGMA) II International Workshop Organizing Committee*

Dr. Cung Vu, US National Maritime Intelligence-Integration  
Office

Mr. George GUY Thomas, United States Coast Guard

Ms. Karna Bryan, NATO Undersea Research Centre

Mr. Gordon Campbell, European Space Agency

Dr. Harm Greidanus , European Commission – Joint Research Centre