

Peter Fitzgibbon, Editor

## Pie in the sky?



*“Let’s get going now on our own position, navigation and timing satellite and Earth Observation systems. UK assets orbiting in space with all the long-term strategic and commercial benefits for this country.”* For some, this clarion call from Boris Johnson on the day he succeeded Theresa May as Prime Minister will be dismissed as pure fantasy. Others will wince at the eye-watering cost of replicating Europe’s Galileo and Copernicus satellite programmes ... endeavours that, together, have cost £15 billion and to which Britain has contributed more than £1 billion over the past quarter of a century.

Of course, Johnson’s exhortation is nothing new. With a post-Brexit Britain to be denied access to secure elements of the Galileo satellite positioning service, it was in May of last year that the Government started looking at options for a home-grown alternative. This was followed by the announcement of a £92 million, 18-month feasibility study into its design and development. And as with Galileo, the government warned that UK-based businesses, academics and researchers would, with some exceptions, be blocked from bidding for new work on the Copernicus Earth Observation programme

and have little say in how it is run.

The UK space sector is certainly buoyant. As one of the fastest growing sectors in the economy, it has tripled its turnover over the past two decades, achieved a compound annual growth rate of more than 8%, and has its sights set on securing a 10% share of a global market estimated to be worth £400 billion by 2030. The creation of a National Space Council in June of this year and its formulation of a National Space Framework will provide added momentum. Yet the question of whether a go-it-alone approach is technically feasible or economically viable remains very much up in the air.

NEWS EXTRA

## CoreRFID becomes Comparesoft’s latest referral partner

**Comparesoft**, the AI-driven software recommender that takes the pain out of the B2B software selection process, has revealed that **CoreRFID** has become their latest referral partner. The move further enhances the degree of choice available to thousands of users of Comparesoft. By reducing the time it takes for business customers to compare asset management and asset tracking solutions, Comparesoft has revolutionised a process that used to be a significant time drain for companies. Now, it takes just three minutes for businesses to have a shortlist of software solutions at their fingertips, all of which are based on unbiased analysis of the company’s needs through a unique combination of artificial and human intelligence. [www.comparesoft.com](http://www.comparesoft.com)



## Water dam failure: space-based monitoring system gets the go-ahead for expansion

**HR Wallingford** – a specialist in water research – will broaden its space-based dam monitoring system, DAMSAT, to include water dams in a bid to reduce the risk of failures. The UK Space Agency has extended the organisation’s funding following a pilot project to monitor tailings dams used to store toxic mine waste in Peru. Ultimately the technology could be employed worldwide to reduce the risks to those living downstream of dams. Over the next two years, HR Wallingford will use the ground-breaking DAMSAT software to monitor movement at several water dams in the Cerro de Pasco region of Peru. The system uses Earth Observation (EO) techniques – including the analysis of spectral responses and iron traces from satellite images as well as data from navigation systems – combined with real-time in-situ devices. [www.hrwallingford.com](http://www.hrwallingford.com)

## Anti-theft technology tracks, locates stolen surveying instrument

**Leica Geosystems**, part of Hexagon, shares an event where LOC8, an asset-tracking platform, was instrumental in the recent recovery of a stolen **Leica TS16 total station** in Manchester. A site engineer with PLP Construction reported to Greater Manchester Police his hired total station from M&P Survey Equipment Ltd. had been stolen from his vehicle. The total station was equipped with the LOC8 technology and was, therefore, tracked continuously throughout the incident. Once notified, the hire desk was able to locate the total station at a residential address in Lancashire. The local authorities were on scene within 10 minutes to retrieve the instrument, returning it safely to the engineer. [www.leica-geosystems.com](http://www.leica-geosystems.com)



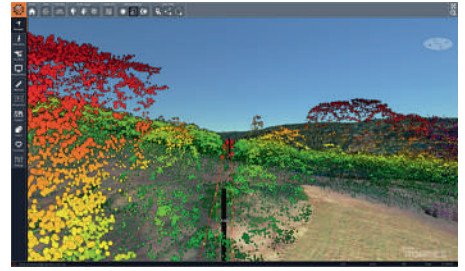
## Britain to lead global mapping standards to allow self-driving vehicles to ‘see’ around corners

A new report published by **Zenic**, the UK hub organisation for self-driving vehicle development, and **Ordnance Survey (OS)**, Great Britain’s National Mapping agency sets out what the global standards should be for high-definition mapping; necessary for the safe deployment of self-driving vehicles. The ‘Geodata report - analysis and recommendations for self-driving vehicle testing’ also calls for the creation of common data standards that promote collaboration and improve confidence in mapping data for self-driving vehicles. [www.zenic.io/insights/report/geodata-report](http://www.zenic.io/insights/report/geodata-report)

## Geovation ready to accept applications to its Accelerator Programme

Start-ups using location, land and property data in their products and services can apply to join the **Geovation Accelerator Programme** and receive the backing and support of Ordnance Survey (OS) and HM Land Registry (HMLR). The fledgling firms using data produced through mapping and related technologies could be in line to receive expert business support and funding to help them

flourish on the world stage. Over a twelve-month period, the start-ups accepted onto the Programme will be able to access a wide range of resources. These resources include access to experienced software developers, geospatial expertise from OS, property expertise from HMLR, and mentorship on business proposals and investor relationships. [www.geovation.uk/accelerator](http://www.geovation.uk/accelerator)



## Sp Energy Networks Utilises Fugro's Virtual Technology To Model Uk Electricity Grid In 3D

The most advanced 3D digital modelling of the UK's electricity grid will be launched by electricity network operator **SP Energy Networks** as it plans to introduce Fugro's virtual technology to reduce the risk of power cuts and prepares for the introduction of the technology across its network in the future. It follows an extensive trial by SP Energy Networks since 2014, which led to all UK network operators adopting its current system. The major upgrade will use innovative technology developed by world leading Geo-data specialist Fugro to map the entire network using virtual world visualisation tools. [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk)

## SSTL expertise enables new space mission for FORMOSAT-7 weather constellation

The successful launch on 24 June 2019 EST of 6 satellites for the **FORMOSAT-7** joint US-Taiwanese weather forecasting constellation marks the start of another SSTL-enabled space mission, a cause for celebration at **SSTL's** UK HQ. SSTL provided the platforms for this next-generation Global Navigational Satellite System Radio Occultation data constellation, enabling our customer, NSPO of Taiwan, to continue its participation in an internationally recognised science mission at the best possible value for money. [www.sstl.co.uk](http://www.sstl.co.uk)



## ABPmer delivers preliminary Site Condition Report for Arklow Bank Wind Park – Phase 2

ABPmer's specialist metocean team, a regular provider of planning and development services to the offshore wind sector, is supporting SSE Renewables in the

development of Phase 2 of its Arklow Bank Wind Park project, off the east coast of Ireland. SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of offshore wind energy sites, and has the largest pipeline of offshore wind projects in UK and Irish waters. [www.abpmer.co.uk](http://www.abpmer.co.uk)



## Bluesky 3D Model Helps AECOM Create Blueprint for Huddersfield Town Centre Redevelopment

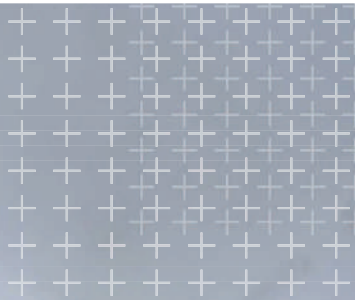
A detailed 3D computer model from **Bluesky** is being used to communicate a £250 million transformation of Huddersfield town centre. Created from the most up to date, nationwide coverage of aerial photography, the Bluesky model forms part of AECOM's visualisation of plans prepared for Kirklees Council. Including a 3D fly through and realistic animations the AECOM presentation will form part of an online platform used to consult and engage with the community over the forthcoming months. [www.bluesky-world.com](http://www.bluesky-world.com)



## Ordnance Survey online art gallery opens

For the first time ever, Ordnance Survey's (OS) recent experimental and custom cartography and geodata visualisations have been brought together in a free-to-access-online-virtual-art-gallery. The GeoDataViz (GDV) exhibition can be explored on laptops and PCs and presents visitors with a perfect blend of OS's art and Science. The exhibition has been organised by Cartographic Design Consultants Charley Glynn and Paul Naylor. [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)





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