

Evolution of Remote Sensing: What's next?

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Abstract: DigitalGlobe, now Maxar has been leading the evolution in Remote Sensing for the past couple of decades. It has set the standards for the industry with the best view of the world through its cutting edge series of satellite constellation, with IKONOS (1999) being the first commercial satellite providing sub meter resolution imagery and World-view-3 (2014) providing 30 cm resolution and 16 multispectral bands in Visible, Near Infrared and Shortwave Infrared part of the spectrum. Space based earth observation continued its evolution with the availability of the first online global color balanced ortho-rectified mosaic of the world at 50 cm resolution. The ability to access and exploit very high resolution images via cloud platform (EarthWatch) , not only changed the way the industry used the space based information in the traditional mapping and other remote sensing application but also opened doors for new and non-traditional applications like (mapping poverty and child slavery, precision agriculture, commodity monitoring etc.). We are now at the cusp of transformation in the space industry with the technology changing at a break neck pace, the cost of building satellites and its launch coming down, cloud/internet and location practically becoming part of our everyday life. What can we expect next from the leaders of the space industry in revolutionizing the way the information is collected from space and used in creating valuable insights for informative decision making process. The session will discuss the next generation constellation to be launched by MAXAR (2021) and set the expectation for the industry yet again.

Keywords: Maxar, Satellite technology, EarthWatch, WorldView, Legion.