

ERATOSTHENES Centre of
Excellence (ECoE)



1st virtual EXCELSIOR International Technical Workshop

15 July 2020

Welcome note & Introduction



Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Professor, Coordinator of 'EXCELSIOR'

Department of Civil Engineering & Geomatics, Cyprus University of Technology & Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 857510



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CONSORTIUM



- **Dear Chief Scientist for Research & Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus,**
- **Distinguished Speakers,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**
- ✓ On behalf of the consortium of the **‘EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Phase 2 Project’**, I would like to express a very warm welcome to all of the participants to the 1st Virtual ‘Excelsior’ International Workshop.
- ✓ This Workshop is a part of the annual workshops that will be organized on a yearly basis, with the participation of all national, Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa (EMMENA) and international stakeholders and addressing all the different activities of the **Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence** (ECoE) i.e. infrastructure, research, education and innovation through entrepreneurship.
- ✓ The main aim of this workshop is to present the plans and prospects of ‘EXCELSIOR’ related infrastructure for space operations, monitoring and environmental research and how these can be used for the projects and challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- ✓ We are more than proud of having more than 300 registered participants from more than 30 countries for this Workshop. Please consider our sincere thanks to all of the participants.

My sincere thanks

Taking this opportunity I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation

- to the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades for the strong commitment and support of the Cyprus Government to the Excelsior Project.
- to the Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation, Dr Nikolaos Mastrogiannopoulos for his great support.
- to all the speakers for their kind acceptance to join us today.
- to the European Commission, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, the Cyprus University of Technology for funding this project.
- to the **CUT** team, the strategic partners **DLR**, **TROPOS**, **NOA** (Beyond Centre of Excellence) and **DEC** as well to the other 95 supporting and committed organizations.
- to the the members of the **External Advisory Board** and the members of the **Board of Directors (BOD)** of the Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence for their great support!
- to REA and our project officer Antonio Vecchio for his strong support and dedication.



President of the Republic of Cyprus



Chief Scientist

I am 100 % confident that you will enjoy our first virtual EXCELSIOR workshop.



Dr. Haris KONTOTES



Mr. Georgios KOMODROMOS

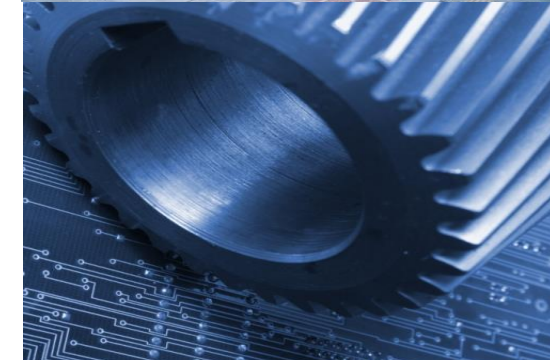


Mr. Gunter SCHREIER



Dr. Albert ANSMANN

- Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) is one of the three state universities in the Republic of Cyprus, located in the city centre of Lemesos (Limassol). It was founded by law on December 2003 and **welcomed its first students on September 2007**. The University consists of six faculties including the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.
- In the 2017-18 Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE), the CUT is ranked 351-400 worldwide
- The Faculty of Engineering and Technology consists of the following 3 departments:
 - **Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics,**
 - Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering and Informatics,
 - Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering.



Introduction

- In 2007, within the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics, the **'Remote Sensing & Geo – Environment Lab'**/ Eratosthenes Research Center - **ERC** has been established with main research pillars: Earth Observation, Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics.
- In 2019, the proposal with the acronym **'EXCELSIOR'** under the H2020 WIDESPREAD TEAMING call has been **granted!**
- In **October 2019**, the **'EXCELSIOR'** H2020 Teaming has been started.



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Excelsior & ECoE

- **What is ‘Excelsior’:** The ‘EXCELSIOR’ TEAMING project is an acronym of the full title of the project named as “ERATOSTHENES: Excellence Research Centre for Earth Surveillance and Space-Based Monitoring of the Environment”. The project is built on the capacities of the existing ERATOSTHENES RESEARCH CENTRE (ERC) (12 years history), at the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology of the **Cyprus University of Technology**.
- **What is ‘Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence (ECoE)’:** is an autonomous Centre of the Cyprus University of Technology established through ‘Excelsior’ and aims to be viable, sustainable Centre of Excellence in earth observation, space technology and geospatial analysis. ECoE is a continuation of the Existing ERC
- **Consortium:** CUT, DLR (Germany), NOA (Greece), TROPOS (Germany), DEC (Cyprus)
- **Supporters/Committed Organizations:** more than 95



Satellite Data Product: Cyprus; © USGS



Credit: Copernicus Sentinel data (2015)/ESA



Why Excelsior?



‘Space-based Earth Observation where three Continents meet’ facing common challenges for making citizens and societies resilient to sustainable development

In our capacity as a **consortium** acting in the domains of Earth Observation (EO), Geospatial Information (GI) and Space Applications:

- ✓ **We are motivated** from the fact that the **European Commission will invest 16bn € in Space, building upon Galileo, and Copernicus.**
- ✓ **We see opportunity** in the fact that the **Cyprus Government** is investing to become full European Space Agency (ESA) member
- ✓ **We are inspired** from the fact the Earth Observation (EO) has been identified by ESA experts, as one of the three domains for potential future Plan for European Cooperating States projects in Cyprus
- ✓ **We are aligned** with the **Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus**
- ✓ **We are pushed** by Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) that has committed to invest 8M € (15 Yrs) and the additional 15M € (15 Yrs) from the GOV of Cyprus
- ✓ **We feel the responsibility** since Eratosthenes Research Center (ERC) **is the only EO center in Cyprus (since 2007)**
- ✓ **We are stimulated** from our mission to upgrade the ERC to **ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE)**

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We are determined to implement the Excelsior & ECoE through Trust, Transparency and Teamwork





.....The goal is to make the harbor city of Limassol a place where researchers from all over the world can interact, and the base for a future innovation centre in the eastern Mediterranean!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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