



IEEE GRSS joins SpaceNet to continue fostering collaborations between the geoscience and remote sensing community and the artificial intelligence and computer vision disciplines

The IEEE [Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society \(GRSS\)](#) is pleased to announce the partnership with [SpaceNet®](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the development and open sourcing of artificial intelligence solutions for geospatial applications. Spanning three years while featuring five unique datasets and challenges, SpaceNet has continued to focus on different aspects of applying machine learning to solve foundational mapping problems. The SpaceNet team has open sourced ~27,000 sq. km of imagery, 811,000 building footprints, and ~20,000 km of road labels across 10 cities. Using these datasets, the SpaceNet public challenges have focused on several different geospatial aspects including: high resolution building footprint mapping, the effects of look angle on model performance, and creating routable road networks.

GRSS brings a large and active community of scientists, engineers, and practitioners to expand SpaceNet's reach in areas of interest to the Society, such as advancements of hardware and systems used for the acquisition of geoscientific information as well as techniques for processing, enhancing, and interpreting information derived from remote sensing instruments. GRSS joins the collaborative SpaceNet partnership alongside In-Q-Tel's (IQT) CosmiQ Works, Maxar Technologies, Intel AI, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Topcoder, and Capella Space.

“Building a robust ecosystem of researchers, scientists, and developers focused on open source geospatial analytics has been a central goal of SpaceNet since its founding,” said Mr. Ryan S. Lewis, Senior Vice President at CosmiQ Works and General Manager of SpaceNet LLC. “The partnership with GRSS is key to accelerating outreach as well as developing ideas for future datasets and data science challenges.”

“We are proud to join SpaceNet alongside several other companies to help lowering the entry barriers of developing geospatial analytics and bridging the gaps across different domains, such as artificial intelligence and computer vision,” said Dr. Fabio Pacifici, GRSS Director of Industry Relations. “This partnership is an opportunity for GRSS to help building a community of communities for geoscience and remote sensing applications. As a first step, the upcoming SpaceNet6 challenge will be the official contest of [EarthVision'20](#), a workshop dedicated to machine learning and computer vision in the context of Earth observation. The SpaceNet6 challenge, which will feature open-source half-meter SAR data along with optical images, will run for approximately two months, with an anticipated launch date of March 2020. Data preprocessing is ongoing now and will be publicly released as the competition launch nears.”

About IEEE GRSS

The fields of interest of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society are the theory, concepts, and techniques of science and engineering as they apply to the remote sensing of the earth, oceans, atmosphere, and space, as well as the processing, interpretation, and dissemination of this information. The Society sponsors various conferences throughout the year, most notably the annual International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium.

Website:

<http://www.grss-ieee.org>

About SpaceNet

About SpaceNet SpaceNet is a nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating applied research in geospatial machine learning by developing and providing publicly available commercial satellite imagery and labeled training data, as well as open sourcing computer vision algorithms and tools. Designed to lower the barrier to entry for developers, researchers and startups to access high quality geospatial data, SpaceNet focuses on four key open source pillars: data, tools, challenge, and algorithms. SpaceNet is a collaborative initiative between In-Q-Tel CosmiQ Works, Maxar Technologies, Intel AI, Amazon Web Services, Capella Space, TopCoder, and IEEE GRSS.

Website:

<https://spacenet.ai/>

Ronny Hänsch
GRSS Image Analysis and Data Fusion Technical Committee
rww.haensch@gmail.com