

Communication department

Friday 9, September 2022



PRESS KIT

Oceania Geospatial Symposium (OGS)

The Oceania Geospatial Symposium (OGS) is a first-of-its-kind regional event as it is co-supported by New-Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna, France, and Pacific Community (SPC). Dedicated to space-based imagery, observation and geomatics in the Pacific region, the OGS will be held at SPC from 28 November to 4 December 2022.

*** Find all government news on gouv.nc ***

Back to context

This regional event is a continuation of the annual OSS-NC seminars (Space Observation Seminar for New Caledonia) organised by ART GeoDEV, a network of clusters for spatial observation of territories and the environment, since 2019 in Noumea, with the support of the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), in order to run, federate and structure the local geomatic community.

The 2021 edition had been a turning point, thanks to the addition of a bilingual (French and English) plenary session by visioconference, as well as the arrival and participation of stakeholders from outside New Caledonia. The success of this formula and an acute awareness of the regional nature of the issues have led to the organisation of a new event of even greater scope.

OGS 2022 is co-sponsored by New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna, in partnership with the SPC, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and the ART GeoDEV, which brings on board the Institute for Research and Development (IRD), the University of New Caledonia (UNC) and a private company specialising in earth observation data imaging.

Driven by a desire to strengthen links between Pacific countries, the event will bring together public and private players, researchers and future entrepreneurs in the geography and geospatial sectors. This regional initiative is supported by the French State through the Pacific Fund, with the active support of the French High Commission in New Caledonia and in close collaboration with Pacific Community (SPC).

Geomatics as a decision support tool

The pooling, analysis and joint management of Earth observation data will make it possible to better respond to the major challenges shared by all the Pacific territories, such as climate change (population displacement, water resources, health problems specific to the Pacific regions, etc.)

All the discussions, presentations, solutions, or projects that will be put forward during the OGS will aim to increase the level of global competences and the transfer of knowledge to the populations concerned in order to initiate the implementation of sustainable projects and solutions on the technical, scientific and economic levels.

SPC has selected three themes from among the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations:

- knowledge of the land and sea ;
- sustainable management of water resources ;
- wetlands and the conservation of related ecosystems.

The symposium will have to make the link with both the sustainable development objectives and the specific needs of the countries and islands of the region, within a broader reflection on the management of environmental risks. **Five main objectives will guide the event:**

1. work on thematic priorities, based on the SPC needs assessment report ;
2. to provide an overview of the technical capacities of regional and international geospatial actors ;

3. establish regional and international sustainable land and resource projects with a strong regional economic development focus to support the sustainability of a self-sustaining regional geospatial ecosystem ;
4. explore possible collaborations and support for the identified projects ;
5. supporting innovation, through the Ocean Hackaton®, in which teams from all over the Pacific will participate with the support of the regional network of universities (PIURN).

Implementation of projects

The aim of this symposium is to give concrete form to these projects in an operational manner. Thus, all the elements worked on collegially will be the subject of a mid-week progress report and defined at the end of the week. In addition, regional referents will be appointed in the various territories over the 18 to 24 months following the end of the event to ensure that the subjects progress.

A first edition under the banner of *Tauhā*

Tauhā means "Southern Cross" in Polynesian. Retaining a strong traditional meaning for Pacific People, the Southern Cross is notably represented on several flags of the Pacific region.

In ancient times, Pacific peoples relied on maps based on the stars and ocean currents to locate and guide themselves in traditional navigation. Micronesian, Melanesian and Polynesian navigators used their own maps, including the Southern Cross constellation. The 2022 edition of the Oceania Geospatial Symposium has been named in honour of these outstanding navigators.

The five major phases of the event have been named after the five brightest stars in *Tauhā*.

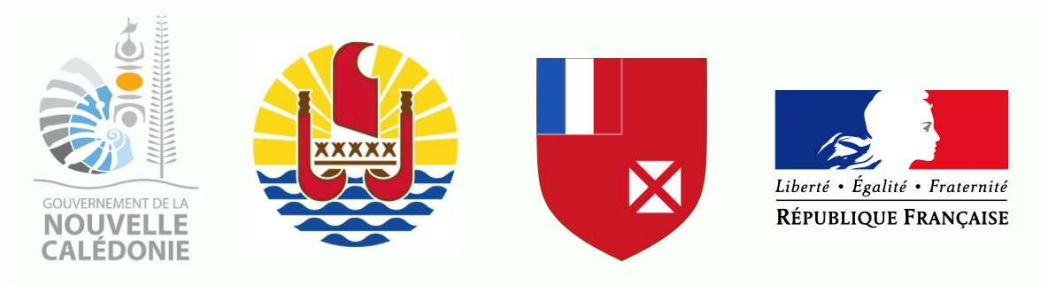
Event partners

This event is co-sponsored by the government of New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna and the French State via the Pacific Fund (France - Ministry of Foreign Affairs). It is co-organised by SPC, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and the ART GeoDEV, which brings together the Research and Development Institute (IRD NC), the University of New Caledonia (UNC) and a private company specialising in imaging Earth observation data (Insight) in partnership with Geoscience Australia, OPT, the Organisation of Digital Economy Professionals (Open NC), the Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS), the Northern Province, the Loyalty Islands Province, the Southern Province, the CIPAC group, the Rural Development Agency, the Maritime Cluster of New Caledonia (CMNC), Noumea town hall, the two mayors associations of New Caledonia, Air Calédonie International and GLP Hôtels.

Programme of the event in brief

For one week, the symposium will propose a multiplicity of events (round tables, conferences, trainings, workshops, trade fair, hackaton) in order to allow participants from the whole Pacific region to get informed and to initiate the implementation of structuring regional projects.

Mon. 28 November	Oceania 2022 Geospatial Symposium Opening Adapting to climate change Oceanian women in geospatial Biodiversity Managing natural resources and ecosystem services
Tue. 29 November	Identification of needs and resources that will allow the sizing of possible projects for the Pacific
Wed. 30 November	Technical presentations by institutions, researchers, suppliers and students
Thu. 1st December	Presentation of GEO Track and discussion on the links GEO and the Pacific Island territories Technical presentations by institutions, researchers, suppliers and students
Fri. 2nd December	Presentation of global, regional and local initiatives in Open Source / Data Global Presentation of initiatives and funding adapted for the Pacific Opening of the seventh edition of the Ocean Hackaton®
Sat. 3rd December	Development of innovative solutions integrating geospatial data to address ocean-related issues, in the framework of the Ocean Hackaton®.
Sun. 4 December	Definition of the scope of regional projects with decision-makers and supporting organisations Technical workshops based on Open Source solutions and tools Results of the Ocean Hackaton® 7 Acknowledgements and closing of the OGS 2022



*

*

*