



Brussels, 8 March 2006

Terms of Reference for the Implementation Groups of GMES “fast track” Services

1. Mandate of the Implementation Groups

The roadmap for the implementation of the three GMES “fast track” services includes the following milestones (see the EC Communication “*GMES: From Concept to Reality*”¹, Annex B):

2005:	For each “fast track” service, user workshop focused on service requirements and the implementation roadmap
2006:	Finalisation of the Terms of Reference of the “fast track” services, based on the outcomes of the workshops
2007:	First FP7 calls for proposal, starting with the development of the three “fast track” services based on their respective Terms of Reference
2008:	Pre-operational validation of the three “fast track” services

After the 2005 user workshops, a small *Implementation Group* will be established for each “fast track” service. These Groups, in open cooperation with the relevant user community(ies), will be in charge of supervising and validating the implementation of the “fast track” services, and for reporting on their progress to the GMES management structure (for the time being the “GMES Advisory Council”).

These Groups will, in particular, be responsible for organising regular progress reviews during the development period, and for proposing the approach to service validation.

Topical workshops and conferences will be organised, where appropriate, during this implementation period, in order to improve user awareness of the “fast track” services and to consolidate and enlarge their user base, with a specific emphasis on regional issues.

¹ COM(2005)565 final

2. Terms of Reference of the Implementation Groups

a) *To supervise and validate the implementation of the “fast track” services, in particular by organising regular progress reviews during the development period, and to report on its progress to the GMES management structure. This will involve:*

- Interacting with major relevant user organisations at EU and national levels, representing their interests and advising on invested resources to exploit the added value of GMES.
- Proposing specific activities to be included under the “fast track” service agenda, both related to “core” services and to possible downstream elements, and discussing possible collective paths for all related activities.
- Acting as an “advisory board” to all the main projects (funded by the EC, ESA or other national or European international organisations) linked to the “fast track” service agenda. This would include, for example:
 - i. Giving advice to all such projects with regard to cost-efficiency, long-term sustainability and user requirement compliance.
 - ii. Helping define, distinguish and prioritise operational and R&D tasks.
- More generally, giving advice about the work plan and the funding issues related to the implementation and operation of the “fast track” services, including the internal organisation and functions.
- Gathering information about relevant complementary activities in the EU and Member States, having regard to interoperability and efficient integration into an ongoing update of the service definition with a vision beyond 2008, including the context of FP7 support.
- Advising the EC on reference documents related to other essential components of the “fast track” services, notably the development of related space infrastructure (by ESA and other national or European organisations).
- Advising the EC on a coordinated policy for access to data (“data procurement”) in the context of FP7, as well as on other important related issues (e.g. on data and service information policies).
- Reporting to GAC meetings on the above issues.

b) *To help organise topical workshops and conferences where appropriate during the implementation period, in order to improve user awareness of the “fast track” services and consolidate and enlarge their user base, with a specific emphasis on regional issues. This will include:*

- Reporting on “fast track” service developments at major relevant workshops.
- Helping promote GMES and establish brand values.