



Press release

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AEA to provide earth observation and greenhouse gas data to Sky News

Leading climate change consultancy AEA, on behalf of and working with the European Space Agency, has launched a new and groundbreaking service to provide earth observation imagery and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions information to the media and public.

The first user to sign up to the service is Sky News, which is running a series of programmes in conjunction with, and to follow up the 15th United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen (COP15).

The Greenhouse-Gas Observatory developed by AEA will provide data streams in the form of images, graphics, maps and complete stories covering:

- Atmospheric GHG emissions, trends and impacts
- Latest forecast estimates and predictions of UK greenhouse gas emissions, using a new and innovative modelling package developed by AEA
- Detailed supporting stories that illustrate the science and help put it in a broader social, political and environmental context
- Estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from official scientific and technical resources.

Although starting with the UK, these services will progressively extend in coverage throughout Europe.

Gwen Ventris, Chief Operating Officer of AEA, commented:-

“The Greenhouse-Gas Observatory will give users access to a comprehensive resource providing information on-demand to complement or form the basis of environment-

focused news stories and reports. What is more, it has the ability to store, export, analyse and illustrate these data.

“There is a real need for media portals to have this kind of up-to-date, relevant information on climate change and its impacts. Fortunately, the European Space Agency has the access to this data and we have the technology to analyse it and communicate value-added information to users in a form that is appropriate to their needs, and delivered when they need it.”

The project is supported by the European Space Agency and their catalogue of data. Information collected by the service will include images illustrating emission sources and climate change impacts including ice cap regression, glacier retreat, agricultural effects and forest destruction.

Ends

See also:

“Sky News Launches Weekly Carbon Climate Report” at
<http://www.skypressoffice.co.uk/SkyNews/Resources/showarticle.asp?id=2888>

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Notes to Editors

About AEA

AEA is a leading energy and climate change consultancy, assisting Governments with evidence-based policy development and solving environmental challenges to improve organisational performance. We help the public and private sectors respond to the challenges of climate change, energy management, sustainability, air and water quality, resource efficiency and transport.

AEA's services for assessing GHG emissions have a global reputation. We prepare the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory and the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the UK Government (web-enabled at www.naei.org.uk).

Our experts contribute to a variety of European and international working groups set up to address Climate Change. AEA was given the responsibility of co-ordinating the work of the United Nation's Emission Inventory Task Force. We were also cited by the United Nations for our contribution to the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

For more information please visit www.aeat.co.uk

About Greenhouse Gas Modelling

AEA has developed new forecasting tools that will produce estimates of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions on a weekly basis for the UK. These enable estimates to be made of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from road traffic, power generation and industrial activity over the short-term.

The resulting forecasts are produced by world-recognised authorities in the field and will be delivered in a form that is scientifically meaningful. Data will be packaged in such a way that it is both simple and accessible to the widest audience.

Under a project funded by the European Space Agency, AEA will be providing model results to a range of media organisations in UK and, eventually, throughout Europe. It is also hoped in future to disseminate the results through a custom-designed website, together with a range of satellite imagery demonstrating GHG emissions, sources, ambient concentrations and impacts.