

A New Standard for Earth Observation

NASA Commercial Small Satellite Data Acquisition - Webinar

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David Jones – Capella Space

- Currently the Engagement Lead Mission Solutions team
 - Supporting End User requirements in the DoD and Intelligence Community
- Career Imagery Analyst 28 +yrs.
 - US Navy from 1994 -2003
 - Contractor/Government Imagery 2003 2023
 - Deputy Operations Chief at SMDC GEOINT 2019-2023
 - NGA SAR Adjunct Instructor



What is SAR?

- Originally developed in the 50's and 60's
- SAR is a form of radar
 - Using radio waves and measuring their response
- Aperture
 - Large antenna needed to achieve fine resolution (motion)
- Key features of SAR
 - High resolution
 - All Weather capability
 - Day and Night
- Miniaturization and Commercialization
 - Germany, Italy, etc were the first to commercialize
 - 2018 Capella launched the US's first COMSAR

- Applications for SAR
 - Earth Observation and Environmental Monitoring
 - Natural disasters (pre and post)
 - Military and Defense
 - Agriculture
 - Mapping (3D models)
 - Change detection
 - Releasability to partner nations



Advancements of the years

From air dropping imagery, to tasking and pulling down imagery from your iPhone







SAR Bands



X-BAND 3 cm



C-BAND 6 cm



L-BAND 24 cm



Frequency Bands









EO vs SAR





MAXAR Electro - Optical

Capella Space Synthetic Aperture Radar



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Capella Space – Our Story



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Capella Space

- Best-in-class: Capella satellites have industry leading quality and imaging capacity
- Validated & Proven: Capella's constellation of satellites is delivering critical intelligence to government and commercial users around the world. TRL 9: actual system flight proven through successful mission operations; Capella is also MRL 10, with full rate production demonstrated and lean production practices in place
- Fully Integrated: Capella designs, builds, integrates, and operates direct taskable satellites with customer direct data delivery
- Extensive IP via R&D: Capella has built an HW/SW IP portfolio differentiating us from our competitors
- Constant Evolution of Technology: Capella evolves its on-orbit (HW) technology every 12-24 months combined with continuous new SW deployment
- Operational and Experienced Constellation: Capella currently has six satellites on orbit, and is planning five more for 2025

- In commercial operations since late 2020
- Continuous manufacturing implemented in '23
- Diversified business lines, customers, and pipeline



A Global Network of Ground Stations



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SAR Data Products

24/7, cloud-free imagery with unparalleled visual clarity



The Capella Advantage

Capella Space's high-quality, highresolution SAR data offers a continuous view of the world with the power to explore your areas of interest for actionable information and more informed decision-making. Coupled with a fully automated tasking platform, Capella's unique SAR capabilities deliver frequent, timely, and high-quality imagery where and when customers need it most.

SAR Collection Types

Capella's collection types are carefully curated to meet a variety of mission needs. Each collection type has a predefined set of imaging acquisition parameters to provide the optimal performance of the Capella constellation.



Spotlight Ultra Extract fine details like motion and obscured manmade objects with additional products like colorized sub-aperture imagery (CSI) and dynamic imaging.



Spotlight

Classify objects, detect change and capture more targets than ever with very high-resolution, high-quality imagery optimized for volume and speed.



Stripmap

Get the most coverage over your target area of interest for broader land use monitoring and baseline mapping.



Spotlight Wide See more than ever with large-area, medium resolution spotlight imagery. Monitor vessel movements, discover illegal mining or track lava flows.

Coverage



Capella Archive

Search the largest collection of high-quality, high-resolution commercial SAR imagery. Leverage Capella's continuously growing archive for historical context alongside current data at mission-critical locations across the world.

- Access thousands of feature-rich imagery for baseline or time-series analysis
- Apply advanced analytics like Change Detection and Vessel Classification on historical imagery
- Leverage subscription packages for continuous monitoring of specific AOIs and machine learning model development

Collection Types

Collection Type	Spotlight Ultra	Spotlight	Spotlight Wide	Stripmap
Look Angle	15° - 50°			
Grazing Angle	73.5° - 33°			
Scene Size (km)	5 x 5		10 x 20	20, 50, 100
Dwell (sec)	28 to 52	8 to 16	15 to 18	4 to 17
Slant Range Resolution (m)	0.25 / 0.3		0.5	0.75
Ground Range Resolution (m)	0.38 to 1.34		0.76 to 2.23	1.13 to 3.37
Azimuth Resolution (m)	0.25	0.5	1.0	1.2
Looks	5	3	3	1
Squint Angle Range	+/- 30°		+/- 0°	



Spotlight Comparison



Spotlight Ultra 0.25 m AZR / 5 look

Spotlight 0.5 m AZR / 3 look

Average number of opportunities per day, averaged by latitude, Look angle range: 15° to 50°, Constellation: C9, C10, C11, C14, C13, C15



Capella User Console Interface & API



Catalog Browsing & API Integration

Full catalog of historical collection for baseline metrics & pattern of life analysis.

Tip-and-cue scenario for immediate responsiveness via API integration.



Simple-to-Use GUI

Task or purchase archived imagery via coordinates, AOI creation tool or shapefile upload.

Fully automated and secure operations: Satellite ops, SAR processing and data storage are cloud based, fully confidential.



Real-Time Status Updates

New tasking scheduling in ≤ 15 minutes and users are provided realtime status updates.

React to emergencies in real-time.

Deliver to teams on the ground hours after capture.

Disaster Relief, Planetary Sustainability & Environmental Monitoring

UK forest inventory





Illegal Mining Detection (Amazon)

FEMA collection prior to hurricane season

Flood Monitoring

(Florida)



Deforestation monitoring (Indonesia)



Glacial Melt Detection





Palm Plantation Monitoring

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Coherent Change Detection

Capella continues to refine collection and processing capabilities towards offering Coherent Change Detection



Two Color Multiview & CCD

CCD and ACD 6-day and 270-day delta-t

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LiveEC

LiveEO and Capella have partnered to offer 24/7, all weather monitoring for over 33,000 km of railway across Germany

Using advanced change detection models on high resolution SAR imagery, LiveEO can identify a wide range of safety hazards that can impact railway operations and threaten public safety.





Sensor - Capella SAR ; Wavelength/Frequency- X band; Polarization- HH pol (single polarization) Imaging mode- Sliding spotlight; Ground Spatial Resolution- 1m





TCarta and Capella combined capabilities make it possible to measure the effects of climate change on coastal communities and wildlife habitat

Using advanced processing algorithms to analyze backscatter values, TCarta can classify a wide range of surface materials such as water, ice and sand. By precisely synchronizing tidal events with imagery collections, TCarta can extract shoreline extent and map temporal coastal features.



Disaster Response Support

Francis Scott Key Bridge, Baltimore, Maryland 05.18.24 | 0928Z | Spotlight

Environmental Monitoring

Batagaika Crater, Siberia 09.06.24 | 1219L | Spotlight mode

Chinese Carriers in Port

Yulin Naval Base, China 10-10-2024 | 0133Z | Spotlight 5km x 5km

Chinese influence in South China Sea

Sand Cay, Spratly Islands First image: 17MAR24 Graze: 56 Second Image: 25MAR24 Graze: 55

CSI enhancing analysis



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Baranavichy, Belarus 10-02-2024 | 1859Z | Spotlight 5km x 5km CSI

Oakland Stadium

Oakland California, United States 12.12.24 | 0409Z | Spotlight

Possible Rotating Equipment

Kursk, Russia 10.02.2024 | 0835Z | Spotlight 5km x 5km

High-resolution Flood Monitoring

Tasking Spotlight Wide for fast, high-res, broad area coverage

Challenge:

Quickly understanding flood extent across an imperfect AOI – the winding Oder river on the Germany-Poland border

Solution:

Ordering Spotlight Wide tasks with simple custom parameters to efficiently map the affected areas

Result:

Full coverage of 160 km of river valley only required 10 Spotlight Wide scenes with relevant footprints at the required 1.0 m resolution



Volcano Monitoring

Mount Etna, Italy July 2024 | Interferometric Coherence Time Series | Spotlight

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Possible Radar Rotating in scene



Poss Spt Veh

Kursk, Russia 10-2-2024 0835Z Spotlight 5km x 5km

Dynamic Imaging

Train Moving

Rail Yard, China 20 JUN 24 0620Z – 33.8 graze

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Thank You capellaspace.com

