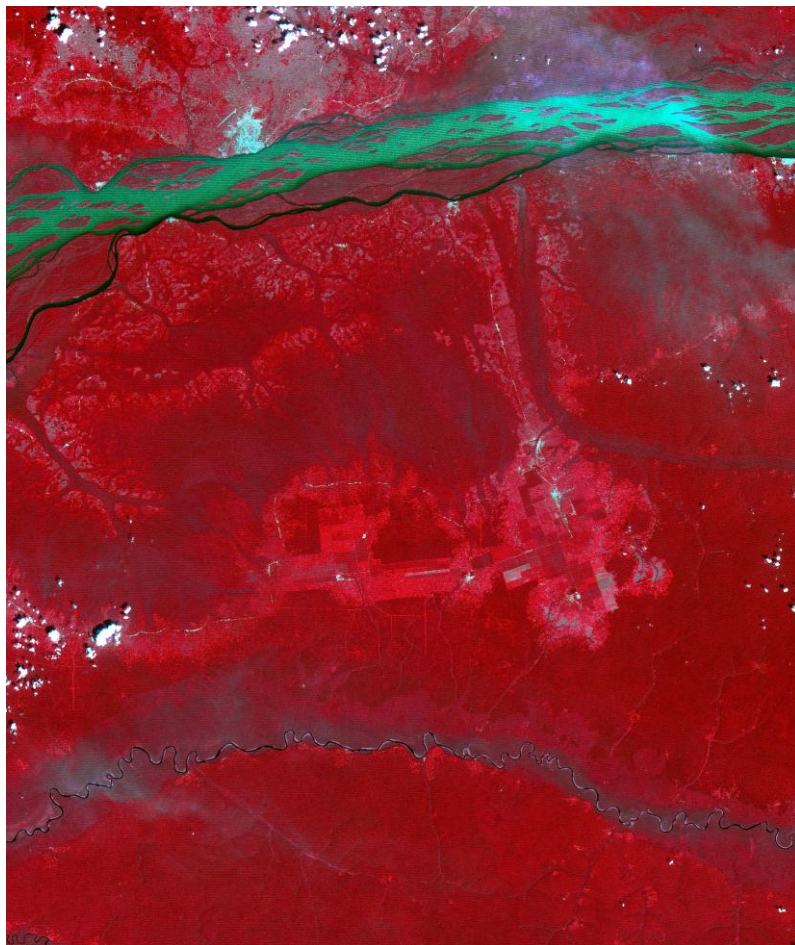




Press Release
Guildford, 29th January 2010

Eyes in space map changing Congo rainforests

British company DMCii is using satellites to acquire new images of the Congo rainforests from space, validating a system that can map the vast Congo Basin every year to measure changes in its forest cover. If adopted, the new system will provide more accurate and up to date information for forest management, policy making and programmes such as the UN's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) throughout the region.



Lisala, Democratic Republic of Congo. Detail from 650 x 650km UK-DMC2 22metre multispectral satellite image. Copyright DMCii 11.01.2010.

Spanning 2 million square kilometres, the forests of the Congo Basin are the second largest area of dense tropical forest in the world, rivalled only by the Amazon rainforests. However, little is yet known about the rate and location of the degradation of the forests of the Congo Basin, or their role in the Earth's carbon cycle. Earth observation from space is the only way to effectively and efficiently manage such vast landscapes and to provide independent, regular and detailed information about changes in forest cover.

Until recently the resolution of satellite images was too coarse to provide effective local forest management and the data could not be provided in a timely manner, but DMCii now has the satellites, experience and software systems to do just that. Dave Hodgson, Managing Director, DMCii explains: "Our experience monitoring the Amazon rainforest and sub-Saharan Africa, combined with recently extended imaging systems, means that we could rapidly acquire high resolution cloud-free images of the Congo Basin to help the world better understand the location and scale of deforestation."

DMCii uses a group of satellites called the Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC) to provide images of any part of the world every day. It is unique because each satellite is independently owned and controlled by a separate nation which includes African nations, but the satellites are coordinated by DMCii making it possible to image a specific place every day.

Satellite imagery provides essential "base data" that is used to create maps for local governments, foresters and independent auditors. This data can be combined with ground reports to target policing of illegal logging, or to measure the scale of forest clearing. For example, maps based upon the images can be used to identify forest clearance, which is near impossible to manage by foot patrol due to the vast scale and inaccessibility of the rainforests.

About DMC International Imaging Ltd

DMC International Imaging Ltd (DMCii) is a UK based supplier of remote sensing data products and services for international Earth Observation (EO) markets. DMCii supplies programmed and archived optical satellite imagery provided by the multi-satellite Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC). DMC data is now used in a wide variety of commercial and government applications including agriculture, forestry and environmental mapping.

In partnership with the British National Space Centre (BNSC) and the other DMC member nations (Algeria, China, Nigeria, Turkey and Spain), DMCii works with the International

Charter: 'Space and Major Disasters' to provide free satellite imagery for humanitarian use in the event of major international disasters such as tsunamis, hurricanes, fires and flooding.

DMCii was formed in October 2004 and is a subsidiary of Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd, the world leader in small satellite technology. SSTL designed and built the DMC with the support of the BNSC and in conjunction with the DMC member nations Algeria, China, Nigeria, Turkey and Spain.

www.dmcii.com

Notes to editor:

This press release and a DMC satellite image in medium resolution can be downloaded from www.ballard.co.uk/dmcii/ . Print quality images are available from Robin Wolstenholme (see contact details below).

Image caption: Lisala, Democratic Republic of Congo. Detail from 650 x 650km UK-DMC2 22metre multispectral satellite image. Copyright DMCii 11.01.2010.

Image description: This detailed image is part of a 650 x 650km multispectral image of the Democratic Republic of Congo, acquired by the UK-DMC2 satellite on 11th January 2010 with a resolution of 22metres. The town of Lisala is visible on the north bank of the Congo River with clearly visible roads and airstrip. South of the river are areas of agriculture. The near-infrared spectral signature of vegetation, invisible to the human eye, is shown as a false red colour. Roads, built up areas and bare soil show as pale colour or white.

Press contacts:

Robin Wolstenholme, Ballard Communications Management

Tel: +44 (0)1306 882288

Email: r.wolstenholme@ballard.co.uk

Paul Stephens, Sales & Marketing Director, DMC International Imaging Ltd.

Tel: +44 (0)1483 804299

Email: p.stephens@dmcii.com