CORSAIR - FAQ

The Satellite Applications Catapult is managing the COSMO-SkyMed Radar Science and Innovation Research (CORSAIR) programme which provides free access to the COSMO-SkyMed Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data for Research and Development (R&D) purposes.

CORSAIR data has been made available by virtue of a bilateral agreement between the United Kingdom Space Agency (UKSA) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and which is designed to complement the associated the UK COSMO-SkyMed Commercial User Terminal (CUT) ground station.

The CORSAIR program will therefore provide free data to successful applicants for any application that can demonstrate especially the benefit of high revisit and high reactivity SAR imagery accessed via the CUT.

What is the UK COSMO-SkyMed Commercial User Terminal (CUT)?
- A UK based ground station for direct tasking and near real time reception of COSMO-SkyMed SAR constellation data.
- Imagery can be downlinked within 30 minutes of its acquisition.
- Conceived to address the user need to enhance access to space imagery data.
- Provides lowest latency satellite imagery data reception for all geographic locations within the UK cone (Figure 1).
- Provides highest frequency revisit of two guaranteed SAR images per day.
- Supports rapid response and regular monitoring applications.

![Figure 1 UK COSMO-SkyMed CUT visibility cone](image-url)
**Who is supporting this activity?**

This activity is the result of actions undertaken by the Satellite Applications Catapult, UK Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and UK Space Agency to stimulate and help the growth and the uptake of EO Applications and Services, specifically utilising SAR data, and to address the user need to enhance access to space imagery data.

The Catapult will be the contact point for the CORSAIR programme and is be responsible for:

- receiving and managing the project proposal peer review process;
- data ordering and delivering;
- publishing results and update the R&D community.

**Who can apply?**

Any UK organisation or institution requiring to use COSMO-SkyMed SAR products in relation to the development of a R&D project. These include:

- Any UK non-commercial research or academic organisation;
- Any UK government or other public administration entity, including public advisory bodies, at national, regional or local level;
- Any UK Industry, SME or commercial company.

In the case of a collaboration with international partner it must be clearly identified that the UK partner is leading the technical work.

**What type of R&D projects can be proposed?**

Proof of concepts, demonstrations, prototypes, trials or research projects such as scientific research, development of new algorithms, products or applications, education and training. Eligible R&D projects also include novel use of space data in new market sectors and applications using innovative methodologies, even if the underlying techniques are well established.

R&D projects shall not be commercial or operational, but could lead to the demonstration of a commercial application or of a pre-operational service delivered as an outcome of the R&D project. For the avoidance of doubt, R&D Projects must:

I. Not include any commercial and operational activities;

II. Not be funded by external parties where there is any form of competition for those funds to be awarded (i.e. not in competition with other industries or institutes);

III. Not be managed under non-UK industrial, academic, institutional or private organisations including, but not limited to, European (e.g. ESA, EC etc.), United Nations or NATO programs.

Control over the selection of projects will be maintained to ensure that the R&D definition is in full agreement with the COSMO-SkyMed End Users License Agreement.

**How many products can be requested?**

There is no upper limit to the images that can be requested, but the proposal must clearly justify why the volume of data requested is appropriate, in addition to the relationship between products requested and the objectives of the proposal.
Please be aware that there is a limited pre-defined number of COSMO-SkyMed acquisitions available which will be equally distributed along the duration of the programme.

**What type of data and what area of interest (AOI) can be requested?**

- Both new and archived acquisitions can be requested. Please notice that new acquisitions can be acquired until 31/12/2016.


  The archived data can be retrieved using the [COSMO-SkyMed products catalogue](http://www.e-geos.it/products/cosmo.html) for which a registration directly on the COSMO-SkyMed products catalogue is required.

- There are no constraints about the location of the study area. Applicants will be asked to provide a shapefile or a KML of the area of interest, which should be ideally the actual target area of interest and no greater.

**IMPORTANT:** Proposals requesting new acquisition within the UK COSMO CUT visibility cone (Figure 1) will get higher priority.

**When projects can be submitted?**

A project proposal can be submitted at any time. The review dates are the following:

- 1 November 2015
- 1 February 2016
- 1 May 2016
- 1 July 2016
- 1 September 2016
- 1 November 2016

**How will the proposal will be assessed?**

Submitted proposals will be peer-reviewed and for each call the Catapult will assemble an external evaluation group comprised of few assessors. The reviewers will hold knowledge and experience of space and satellite technologies, as well as their associated downstream applications and benefits, and will independently score and rank proposals against defined criteria such as the type of R&D, new acquisition within the UK COSMO CUT visibility cone, and objectives, innovation, feasibility, schedule, requested quota, potential rewards of the project.

**What are the types of proposal assessment?**

There are two types of review cycles which can be chosen within the proposal application form.

The application form requires the proposer to select either of the following:
The standard peer-review cycle (evaluation and notification) will take 4 weeks after the deadlines outlined above.

The express review process will be requested under exceptional circumstances whereby the review cycle (evaluation and notification) is reduced to 5 working days from the submission date. The type of project falling under this category is one where the imagery target is opportunistic or a rapidly evolving phenomenon on the ground such as a flood, earthquake or forest fire etc., where waiting for the standard review process would not be acceptable.

The Catapult reserves the right to move proposals from the express review process to the standard if they deem the proposal to not warrant urgent treatment.

**What happens after the proposal approval?**

When a proposal has been approved, an Accreditation Procedure will be activated, following the signature of the COSMO-SkyMed End Users License Agreement (EULA) by all the project partner(s). When the Accreditation Procedure is completed the order(s) related to the proposal project can be submitted through the Catapult.

The project team will be requested to provide a short mid-term and a final report.

**What happens if the project proposal is unsuccessful?**

If the evaluation results in an unsuccessful application, the Catapult will inform the proposer and clearly state the reasons behind the decision. If the evaluation returns a negative result due to minor issues (e.g. simple administrative discrepancies, slight change in data volumes etc.), the Catapult will liaise with the proposer to resolve the issue(s) and assist in the development of the proposal.

**Contact point:**

Should you have any questions about the project proposal submission, please don’t hesitate to contact the Satellite Applications Catapult at: corsair@sa.catapult.org.uk

**Submit a project proposal:**

1) To submit a proposal, please use the downloadable proposal template only. Alternatives will not be evaluated/considered.

2) The project proposal must be submitted electronically (via pdf or word format) via the submission form which can be found on the Catapult’s website: sa.catapult.org.uk/CORSAIR

3) After submitting the project proposal, no changes are allowed until the review process has taken place.

4) An automatic submission acknowledgement will be sent to the email address provided in the submission form.