

NOVARP: FAQ

The Satellite Applications Catapult is leading the **NOVaSAR Research Programme** which will provide free data tasking and access to NovaSAR data for academic research.

Who can apply?

The UK research community. These include:

- Any UK non-commercial research organisation
- Any academic organisation (including non-UK)
- Any UK government or other public administration entity, including public advisory bodies, at the national, regional or local level

What type of R&D projects can be proposed?

Projects which are either proof of concepts, demonstrations, prototypes, trials or research such as scientific research, development of new algorithms, products or applications.

The project must 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.

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

<https://sa.catapult.org.uk/eula-novasar-data/>

Exclusion Criteria

- Commercial and operational activities are not supported.

How many products can be requested?

The project should require a clearly outlined number of scenes and the proposal must clearly justify why the volume of data requested is appropriate, in addition to the relationship between the products requested and the objectives of the proposal.

Please be aware that there is a limited pre-defined number of NovaSAR acquisitions available which will be equally distributed along the duration of the programme

What type of data can be requested?

Archive data is available free of charge upon registration by email to: UKIntelligence-ImagerySupport@Airbus.com

This programme allows specific user tasking in the mode, dates and area desired.

NovaSAR product description documents are available at:

<https://research.csiro.au/cceo/novasar/novasar-introduction/novasar-1-user-guide/>

What area of interest (AOI) can be requested?

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, in addition to identifying the area in km².

When projects can be submitted?

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

- Period 1: 1 September 2022
- Period 2: 1 December 2022

Further dates will be communicated after December 2022.

How will the proposal be assessed?

Submitted proposals will be peer-reviewed and for each call the Catapult will assemble an evaluation group comprised of a 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 the defined criteria.

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 place within 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., when 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, data tasking will be actioned according to the successful proposal. User(s) will be informed about the successful tasking and instructions to download data.

The project team will be requested to provide a final presentation to be delivered at a NovaSAR user workshop (virtual attendance available), to be organised in 2023.

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.

Who is supporting this activity?

This activity is the result of actions undertaken by the Satellite Applications Catapult and the UK Space Agency to stimulate and help the growth and the uptake of EO Applications and Services, specifically utilising NovaSAR data.

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

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

Contact point:

Should you have any questions about the project proposal submission, please don't hesitate to contact the Satellite Applications Catapult at: novasaroperations@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: <https://sa.catapult.org.uk/opportunities/novarp/>
- 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.