

Introduction to this Special Issue of the South African Journal of Geomatics

The first SA-GEO symposium was held on 11-12 September 2012 in Cape Town. The theme 'Using Earth Observations for Societal Benefit in South Africa' was addressed through the presentation of scientific papers and discussion. This Special Edition of the South African Journal of Geomatics contains a number of papers presented at the symposium; these papers were submitted by the authors to the journal for review, selection and publication in this special edition.

SA-GEO has been established to advocate, promote and facilitate networking within the wider Earth Observations community in South Africa. The aim is to encourage the use of Earth Observations so that they can be fully utilised to support policy, decision-making, economic growth and sustainable development. In order to achieve operational application of Earth Observations, scientists and technologists need to research and develop suitable methodologies, techniques and systems for converting the raw observations into useful information.

The 1st SA-GEO symposium was an initiative of the National Earth Observations and Space Secretariat (NEOSS) to demonstrate the progress by South African scientists and technologists in actively applying Earth Observations for societal benefit. This collection of papers therefore represents a significant contribution to the Earth Observations knowledge base available in South Africa.

NEOSS records its thanks and appreciation to the authors who submitted their papers for consideration for publication in this special edition. Thanks are due to the Editor and Board of the South African Journal of Geomatics for accommodating this special edition of the journal.

NEOSS is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology and is hosted by the CSIR.

Terry Newby

Manager: NEOSS