

Cyprus

Delivering new levels of high accuracy aerial photography in Cyprus

Cutting-edge technology is being used in a project to provide new high precision and high resolution aerial photography of Cyprus.

An agreement, signed in September 2019, has seen the Director of the Department of Lands and Surveys (DLS) work with a consortium of companies, Eratosthenes SA Greece, and Sintegra SAS France, to deliver the initiative, which is expected to last 12 months.

The project involves the acquisition and processing of high-precision and high resolution aerial photographs and related data, using state-of-the-art equipment and software. The digital data that will be produced will be entered into the Department's Land Information System, and then onto the DLS-Portal and INSPIRE online platform, for direct use by DLS staff to satisfy internal processes, by other government departments, by private organisations and services, and by the public.

The data acquisition phase has already been completed successfully. Data analysis, processing, checking and acceptance phases will follow in the coming months.



Participants (Left to Right): Andreas Hadjiraftis (DLS), Andreas Sokratous (DLS Director), Ioannis Marakakis (Eratosthenes AE), Laurent Geradin (representative of Sintegra SAS), Alexandros Velissarios (Director of Eratosthenes AE), Georgia Papatoma (Project Coordinator-DLS), Ioannis Chatzioikonomou and Andreas Demosthenous (DLS).

The data that will be delivered will include the following: High resolution, 100% cloud-free aerial photos and ortho-photos at an accuracy of $\pm 20\text{-}25$ cm and 10 cm pixel size; Lidar data; DSM and DTM at 10 points/sqm in urban areas and 5 points/sqm in rural areas; and contour lines at 1m intervals.

The new aerial photographs and related data will be combined seamlessly following predefined standards. They will enable the Department to handle difficult cases from the office, collect reliable cartographic data, and significantly reduce fieldwork time.

The development of the Land Information System and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is the foundation for the development of sound GIS systems for other agencies and users with the aim of creating consistent spatial data, products, and

trustworthy applications. The Government fully supports these activities and believes that sound spatial information is needed for good and secure governance at all levels, and that it should always be readily available.