COPERNICUS AND CMS

Copernicus is the Earth Observation component of the European Union’s Space Programme which looks at our planet and its environment for the benefit of all European citizens.

Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) service forms part of the security component of Copernicus. It operates under restricted access which is granted to authorised users. CMS is activated upon user request.

Funded by the EU, CMS is available to authorised users free of charge.

WHAT DOES CMS SERVICE PROVIDE?

A comprehensive maritime picture assisting the end-user’s decision-making in everyday operations.

EO images and value-added products in quasi-real time to support the end-user’s maritime operations by monitoring human activity at sea.

Radar (SAR) Satellites
- Access to 5 satellite missions
- Resolution: ≤1m - ≤100m
- Not affected by weather and cloud cover
- Reflective objects (vessels, installations) are visible as bright spots
- Oil spills and low wind areas appear as dark patches

Optical Satellites
- Access to 4 satellite missions
- Resolution: 30cm to 1.5m
- Easy image interpretation and object identification due to true colour images
- Affected by cloud coverage
- Dependent on sunlight

HOW TO ACCESS THE CMS?

The service is provided through EMSA’s maritime portal and to access it, users:
- need to have an account to the EMSA portal
- must complete a User Registration form and send it to the CMS team

WHO IS THE CMS COMMUNITY?

National authorities of the EU Member States and EFTA countries with responsibilities at sea.

EU institutions and bodies.

International organisations, (subject to European Commission authorisation)

...CAN ACCESS THE SERVICE THROUGH
- Routine request
- Short-notice request
REFERENCES
1 https://portal.emsa.europa.eu/home
2 copernicus@emsa.europa.eu
3 European Free Trade Association
4 European Commission Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space
5 Reported in 2023
6 Reported in 2022
7 Delivery time varies in terms of satellite overpass period, image size and product complexity

CREDITS
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