



FireBird Image Data Policy

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1. Introduction

FireBIRD is a satellite mission of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) consisting of two satellites TET-1 and BIRO. DLR is responsible for the whole mission including satellite operations, mission planning, data reception, data processing, archiving, distribution, and science coordination. DLR is the owner of the mission data.

The data are intended to be used for scientific applications. The aim of the mission is a comprehensive use of data through a abroad science community in order to foster applications as well as development of new algorithms and data products. In order to achieve this the data shall be free and open available. This means, that scientists receive the data free of charge through the defined routines and as long as the mission goals are fulfilled (see chapter 2 and 3).

Through the scientific use of data a commercial interest can arise. In case of a commercial interest, data access need to be negotiated separately. All data requests, which are not compliant with the scientific mission goal have to be addressed separately to DLR. DLR reserves it's right to decide case dependent.

From the user side no general right exists regarding data acquisition or access. This will not change even for a possible a commercial use as described above.

2. Terms of Use

DLR provides non-exclusive all received and archived data which fulfill the necessary quality standards to the scientific community for non-commercial research and development. DLR will have the unrestricted right to use these data.

The raw data belong to DLR and are not foreseen to be delivered to third parties. The research results based on higher order products belong to the autorised scientist who produced these results. If additional data receiving stations shall be involved, they are obliged to deliver the data received to DLR. These data shall be integrated into the central archive at Neustrelitz.

A pre-requisite for using the data is a declaration of the user confirming the exclusive scientific non-commercial use of the data and describing the intended activities. This procedure applies also to data received by non-DLR receiving stations.

All users can register in a first step via email. At a later stage registration will be possible through a FireBIRD website. At this stage information regarding the home institution (e.g. scientific, private sector), the application area, the intended end user, aim of application and no. and mode of data among others will be stated through a dedicated proposal.

The proposals will be evaluated according to scientific quality, relevance of the topic, feasibility of the idea from a scientific team. Based on this evaluation the required data will be planned and

acquired and delivered. In return the research results shall be presented at specific FireBIRD workshops and a summary provided to DLR.

In case of data requests from governmental institutions regarding emergency situations a non-bureaucratic way to acquire and deliver data is pursued with the highest priority. However a 24/7 availability is not feasible for commanding, processing and analyzing the data. Therefore specific routines for such cases will be defined.

The scientific team is composed of representatives of national and international research institutions from the fields of climate research, fire ecology and other relevant research areas. It evaluates the applications for image acquisition according to the above criteria. In case of conflict, data acquisition will be prioritized by giving applications with a time-critical background usually priority over long-term imaging. In principle, the aim is to treat the requirements as equally as possible.

The amount of data per application is limited and depends on the usage. If, contrary to the original application, more data is required from a scientist, a new application will be necessary. In case of misuse of the data quota, the Mission Board reserves the right to draw consequences.

3. Data provision and availability

The distribution of the data takes place via a defined FTP server. In the case of archive data, the data can be downloaded via the EOWEB, i.e. the DLR web catalogue, after checking the user's authorization. Data archiving is secured for the duration of the mission.

The provision of data is based on the "best-effort" principle and no claims can be made. In the case of large orders from the archive, there may be delays due to the processing load, a possible quota restriction still has to be defined.

4. Costs

All recorded and processed data sets are available for scientific use and for non-commercial research and development tasks free of charge and not exclusively. If the distribution of data involves increased effort, DLR reserves the right to charge a corresponding compensation for expenses. The right to use the data is subject to a corresponding declaration of intended scientific use to DLR/Scientific Steering Group. Any other form of use requires a separate agreement with DLR.

5. Reference

When publishing results or FireBIRD data in public (paper, presentations, posters, websites etc.), DLR must be named as data source.