ISSUE 1 VOLUME 1 YEAR 2015

Polar View Newsletter

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Polar View newsletter! It is our intention to provide you with these updates on Polar View activities twice a year.

Given everything that has been happening, this issue is particularly long but well worth the read. Here is a taste of the exciting events that are described below:

- Creation of the Polar View Office
- 10th Anniversary and AGM
- Proposal and Contract Successes
- New Business Initiatives
- Marketing and Promotion Initiatives

I welcome your comments, questions, and ideas.

Best regards,

David Arthurs

IMPORTANT DATES

July 15, 2015 – Polar View launches a year-long celebration of its 10th Anniversary

September 10, 2015 – Polar TEP Progress Meeting, Innsbruck

September 11, 2015 – Polar View AGM, Innsbruck

September 14, 2015 – Polaris Progress Meeting, ESTEC

October 30, 2015 – Polaris workshop, Waterloo, Canada

Polar View Earth Observation Limited
Electron Building, Fermi Avenue
Harwell Oxford, Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 0QR
United Kingdom

Polar View is the world's leading organization for the provision of operational, satellite-based monitoring of the polar regions and the cryosphere.
For more information see: www.polarview.org

THE POLAR VIEW OFFICE IS UP AND RUNNING

At the 16th Polar View progress meeting in Frascati, Italy, on December 2nd, 2014, there was substantial discussion about the future of Polar View. The consensus was that, with the increased interest and activity in the polar regions, there is a wealth of opportunities for Polar View. However, Polar View was seen to be missing many of those opportunities since the members were undertaking their Polar View activities as a part-time effort. As a result, the Polar View Board of Directors was given the mandate to pursue opportunities under the Polar View identity on behalf of its members, and tasked with an action to develop a strategy "to bring Polar View to the next level".

At the following Polar View director's meeting, a plan was created to open a Polar View Office to act as a secretariat for the organization. David Arthurs was assigned the role of Managing Director, and given the task of establishing the new office and implementing the Polar View vision. David was provided with limited financial resources that have resulted from previous projects, with the expectation that the Polar View Office would then be sustained through the proceeds from new Polar View business developed through the efforts of the Office.

Polar View Office Team Members sport traditional Polar View attire.

Six months later, the Polar View Office is up and running, and has successfully implemented numerous initiatives – many of which are described in this newsletter. The office is located in Ottawa, Canada, and staffed by a team of five:

- David Arthurs, Managing Director, david.arthurs@polarview.org, +1 613 680 2282 ext 331
- Ed Kennedy, Director, Business Development, ed.kennedy@polarview.org, +1 613 680 2282 ext 334
- Christine Havey, Communications Manager, christine.havey@polarview.org, +1 613 680 2282 ext 321
- Jay Tompkins, Information Systems, james.tompkins@polarview.org , +1 613 680 2282 ext 329
- Kim Stephens, Office Management and Accounting, kim.stephens@polarview.org, +1 613 680 2282 ext 205

"After an absence of several years, I look forward to be getting involved in Polar View communications and marketing activities again, at a time when there are so many opportunities ahead of us and as we look forward to celebrating our 10th anniversary this year" (Christine Havey)

POLAR VIEW HARWELL

Since 2011, when Polar View Earth Observation Limited was incorporated in the United Kingdom, eOsphere has kindly provided us with our official address. This spring, eOsphere moved to the Satellite Applications Catapult in Harwell, UK – and Polar View has moved there also. Our official address is now:

Polar View Earth Observation Limited
Electron Building, Fermi Avenue
Harwell Oxford, Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 0QR
United Kingdom

The Harwell Research Campus – Location of Polar View's Corporate Headquarters

POLAR VIEW CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

On July 15, 2005, the kick-off meeting for the Polar View project under the GMES Programme was held with the European Space Agency at ESRIN (admittedly, the ICEMON and Northern View projects had already been operating for about two years). That meeting initiated a decade of fruitful collaboration that resulted in the formation of Polar View Earth Observation Limited.

In celebration of Polar View's 10th anniversary, a number of initiatives are being planned, including:

- The issuing of the long-anticipated Polar View snow globes!
- The Polar View flag contest,
- The AGM gala dinner

Stay tuned for more information on all of these.

NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Polar View AGM will be held in Innsbruck, Austria, on Friday, September 11th. In celebration of Polar View's 10th anniversary, there will also be a gala dinner on the preceding Thursday evening. The meeting is being held in conjunction with a progress meeting for Polar View's Polar TEP project.

Given Polar View's significant developments over the past year, and its exciting opportunities over the next few years, Polar View members and supporters are encouraged to make every effort to attend the AGM in order to hear the latest updates and influence Polar View's evolving vision.

Innsbruck – The location of Polar View's next Annual General Meeting

PROPOSALS AND CONTRACT SUCCESS

EO-2 Proposal

Polar View has submitted a proposal in response to the Horizon 2020 EO-2-2015 call entitled "Stimulating Wider Research use of Copernicus Sentinel Data in the Polar Regions". The call is aimed at stimulating access to the huge volumes of data to be delivered by the Copernicus satellite series.

The Polar View proposal aims to extend the capabilities being developed under the Polar TEP project for ESA (see a note on that project below). As a result of the efforts in developing the proposal, Polar View has established excellent links with the polar data management community.

We expect to hear of the outcome of the proposal evaluations in early September.

Polar TEP Contract

Polar View has been awarded a contract by the European Space Agency to implement a “Polar Thematic Exploitation Platform” (Polar TEP).

Polar TEP will provide polar researchers with access to computing resources, earth observation (EO) and other data, and software tools in the cloud. This new approach will remove the need to transfer large EO data sets around the world, while increasing the analytical power available to researchers and operational service providers.

In the traditional workflow for the analysis of earth observation (EO) data, users download the data to their local site and then process it using their available software and computing resources. With the increasing volume of data available from missions such as Sentinel, and the resulting need for powerful computing resources for processing, the existing methods of working are inefficient and restrict the use of EO data.

ESA’s Thematic Exploitation Platform (TEP) concept aims to provide a working environment where users can access algorithms and data remotely, providing them with computing resources and tools that they might not otherwise have, and avoiding the need to download and store large volumes of data. This new way of working will encourage wider exploitation of EO data.

EO is especially important in the polar regions at a time when climate change is having a profound impact and excitement about new economic opportunities is driving increased attention and traffic, resulting in growing concerns about the state of the region’s delicate ecosystems. Developing tools to model, understand and monitor these changes is vitally important in order to better predict and mitigate the resulting global economic and environmental consequences.

Polar TEP will integrate data discovery and access for a rich set of polar-themed EO and complementary datasets, a scalable computing environment, a suite of analytical tools and the ability for users to supply their own models, plus tools to allow sharing of results and promote collaboration. These resources will be accessed through a web portal.

The platform architecture will be open, scalable and independent of any specific IT infrastructure. This approach will allow easy expansion of the platform’s capabilities, and encourage the development of a wider network of other thematic exploitation platforms.

Polaris Contract

Polar View has been awarded a contract by the European Space Agency to undertake the “Polaris” study of the user needs and high-level requirements for the next generation of observing systems for the polar regions.

The project will first identify the information requirements of polar researchers through close dialogue with key user representative bodies across the breadth of user categories.

Then, information gaps will be identified, considering existing and planned earth observation and other space and non-space based systems (such as GNSS, AIS, telecommunications, and in-situ measurements). These gaps will be prioritized in consultation with polar research stakeholders.

Finally, the project will identify potential new integrated information services made possible by the synergetic use of space and other assets to meet the polar information gaps, and perform a preliminary assessment of the high-level mission requirements for supplying these integrated services.

Polar Ice Contract

POLAR ICE is an FP7 project that is developing the next generation of operational sea ice monitoring services to support a range of activities in the Arctic and Antarctic; users will have access to timely, integrated and relevant information to optimize transportation routes, protect off-shore resource exploitation, reduce the risk of environmental damage and improve climate change monitoring. The 2.5-year project has a year remaining.

Recently, the POLAR ICE team has conducted internal demonstrations at the Danish Meteorological Institute to test a range of ice information products and the project's integration and visualisation systems.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES

European Tour

At the end of May, David Arthurs took the opportunity provided by a POLAR ICE project meeting in Helsinki to meet with a number of organizations to discuss the future of Polar View. These included:

- The Satellite Catapult Centre, GeoCento, eOsphere, and the ESA IAP Programme in Harwell, UK
- The Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center in Bergen, Norway
- Syke, VTT, and FMI in Helsinki, Finland

David was struck by the enthusiasm that all of these organizations brought to the prospect of working with Polar View.

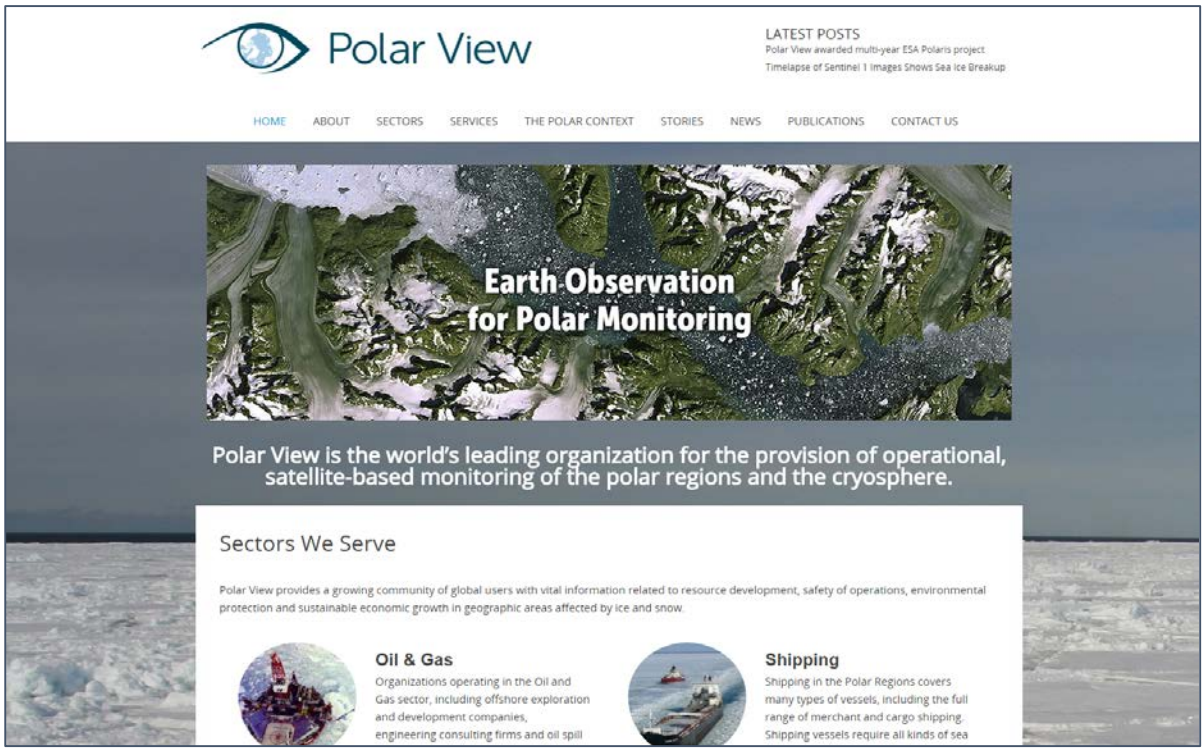
Expanding our Network

The Polar View Office is taking advantage of opportunities to raise Polar View's profile and expand our network of business contacts. A recent example was the Canadian Polar Data Workshop held in Ottawa on May 26th and 27th, in which David Arthurs and Ed Kennedy facilitated and reported on a discussion group. This workshop was attended by some 40 representatives of the Canadian polar data management community, convened to prepare for the Second Polar Data Forum (see events below). David and Ed will also be participating in the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) 2016 (see events below) in Fairbanks, Alaska in March 2016, for which they are co-leading the organization of the Private sector partnerships (observing initiatives and cooperation) theme. The AOS is a biennial event that brings together an international group of experts involved in providing community-driven, science-based guidance for the design, implementation, coordination and sustained long-term operation of an international network of Arctic observing systems.

New Polar View Website

The Polar View website (www.polarview.org) has been updated. There have been changes to content, but primarily the site has been ported to a new CMS which will allow Polar View staff to more easily make changes. As always, suggestions for improvements or additional content are always welcome.

Efforts are now underway to integrate Polar View data visualization into the site.



Forthcoming Conferences

Polar View will be making presentations at a number of conferences in the coming months. These include:

Event	Dates	Location
Earth Observation Open Science 2.0	12-14 October 2015	Frascati, Italy
Second Polar Data Forum (PDF II)	27-29 October 2015	Waterloo, Canada
PV 2015 Conference	3-5 November 2015	Darmstadt, Germany
Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) 2016	15-18 March 2016	Fairbanks, USA

Please let us know of opportunities to present Polar View at other conferences and forums.

NEW BUSINESS INITIATIVES

Polar View Training

To augment its operational services, Polar View intends to also provide training services. Two such projects are now underway:

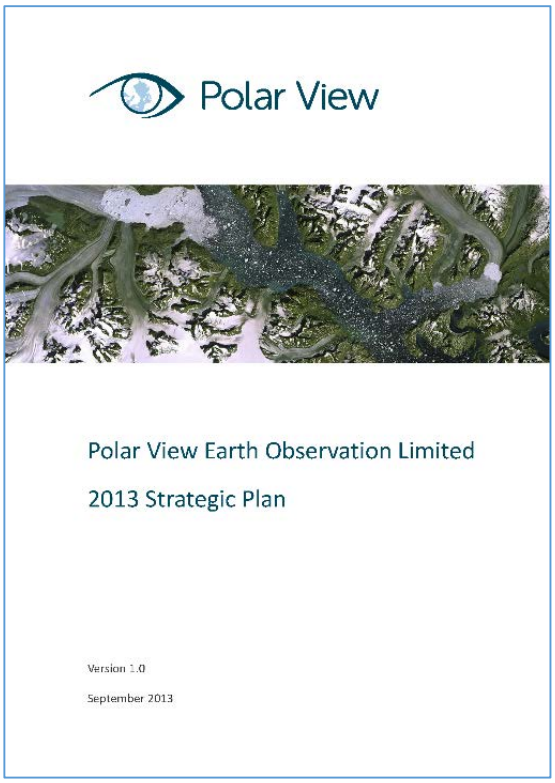
- Southern Ocean Ice Analysts: At the last meeting of the International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG) in Argentina, an offer was made by the national ice services in the Northern Hemisphere to provide assistance to the met offices of the southern ocean regarding ice analysis. Polar View will work with the IICWG in developing and delivering a series of courses to help in the development of ice services in Argentina, Chile, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Earth Observation for Oil and Gas: Last year, ESA funded the “EO4OG” project with the aim of establishing the current capabilities and uses of satellite-based Earth Observation for the oil and gas sector. As follow-up to this activity, Polar View is investigating the opportunity to host professional training courses for staff in the offshore oil and gas industry, especially operator’s technical personnel, in the latest EO products and services across the technical sectors studied during the “EO4OG” project. Polar View is working to develop the syllabus and gauge the appropriate time to launch this initiative, given the downturn in the sector.

Polar Code

The IMO has issued a “Draft International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code)” which will take effect on 1 January 2017. The Polar Code defines many measures that will provide opportunities for Polar View, including expectations regarding safety of navigation, voyage planning, and training. Polar View will be giving careful consideration to the code in its future plans.

FUTURE PLANS

The last Polar View Strategic Plan is now almost two years old and it is time for an update. Over the coming months, the Polar View Office will be working with other Polar View members to develop a new strategic plan. Your contributions and thoughts are most welcome!



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Keep abreast of Polar View news and happenings:

- Visit the News Section on the Polar View website at www.polarview.org/news-press/
- Twitter, https://twitter.com/polarview
- Facebook, www.facebook.com/polarviewearthobservation
- Linkedin www.linkedin.com/company/polar-view

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

- News items for Polar View website
- Conferences and forums where Polar View should have a presence
- Contributions to the new Polar View Strategic Plan
- Items for the next newsletter

Please send your contributions to:

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