Digital Platforms – a strategic asset in completion for the next digital economy

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Digital Platforms ecosystem – what and why?

EARSC
European Association of Remote Sensing Companies

- **The main value of Digital Platforms (DP) lies in:**
  - Easy access to a broad range of solutions and products
  - The dimension of the user community
  - Layered architecture based on open APIs
  - The resilience of the platform (i.e. it's long term commitment)
  - The scalability and reliability of the technology
  - Installed and ready to use set of resources
  - Local – independent and autonomous European resources based on open source
- **DP are strategic assets in competition for the next digital economy (on this COVID-19 acted in several ways as an accelerator):** a fierce global competition is ongoing and **DP are at the centre of it**

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Industry recommendations for the Digital Platforms - how

- **EARSC welcomes ESA initiatives on Digital Platforms and the NoR to:**
  - strengthen user communities
  - provide focus on thematic arguments
  - address geographic areas commonalities
  - develop innovative business models
  - provide anchor tenancy necessary for initial period of platforms' development

Industry recommendations for the Digital Platforms - details

- **Numerous platforms are implemented by or with the support of ESA**
  - A **mapping or a catalogue of platforms** would support the awareness focussing on functions available, and not the technology used
  - Platforms based on **the current model developed by ESA : horizontal tiers** (Ground Station/infra, data/ICT, services/exploitation) and **open interfaces are more desirable**
  - Stimulate the use of already installed solutions in on-going and future initiatives e.g. Destination Earth
- **User Engagement**
  - EU users still made a relatively low use of EO data
  - However consequent policy can bring results: see e.g. 2018 and 2020 EARSC EO Industry Surveys – on Copernicus data access via DIAS platforms
  - Best practices should be implemented from the R&D phase (e.g. PCP and DSP), in order to make easier the **inclusion of EO within the workflows**

Industry recommendations for the DP – user engagement cont.

User Engagement – cont.

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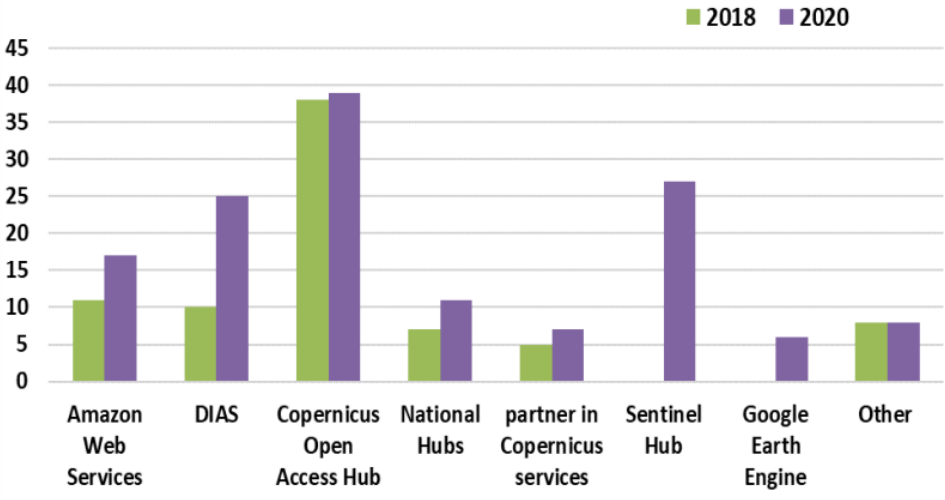

Figure 40. Most frequently used route to access Copernicus data

Copernicus – Access to Sentinel data
Source: EARSC Industry Survey 2021

Industry recommendations for the DP – key aspects

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- **DP requires long term commitment and investments:**
  - A sustainable number of users take time to establish – experience from other projects (IT field) shows at least 4-5 years until BE
  - In order to attract private capital a **credible time horizon** should be guaranteed
- **DP are strategic assets in competition for the next digital economy:**
  - EU and EU Industry need **anchor tenants demand** to compete with non-EU actors which are strongly subsidized or benefit from significative anchor tenancy demand from their government
  - DPs can and should be based on open source and local competencies – to keep and gain European strategic autonomy and independence

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Industry recommendations for the Digital Platforms

Summary

- **Digital Platforms are here:**
  - Consolidating user communities
  - Providing easy/ready to use solutions and resources
- **Digital Platforms are strategic European assets in competition for the next digital economy:**
  - Local competencies and resources
  - Building European strategic autonomy and independence
- **Digital Platforms need time and nurturing to become fully useful and self-sustainable**

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Thank you and see you on the Digital Platfoms

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