



AgSat – USDA Satellite Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA)

INFORMATION SHEET

March 2016

What is the AgSat BPA?

The USDA-FSA Aerial Photography Field Office (APFO) established Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) with firms capable of meeting USDA's requirements for satellite imagery in support of its various programs. The "AgSat" BPAs provide a purchasing vehicle through which orders for satellite imagery can be efficiently and expeditiously issued.

The BPAs are intended to cover a performance period not to exceed five years. The five year BPAs were awarded in 2012. Orders may be placed against the agreements until July 2017.

FSA established the BPAs to purchase satellite imagery primarily in locations that are historically very difficult or cost prohibitive to acquire with aerial acquisition platforms, in order to meet agency needs. FSA contracted for AgSat data for the first time in 2012, covering areas of interest (AOIs) in AK, HI, Pacific Basin, and the US Virgin Islands.

Who may order imagery under the BPA?

Any USDA agency can order against the AgSat BPA using the standard IAS procurement process. Orders can be issued directly to the contractors without any involvement from or administrative fees paid to APFO.

If you are with a non-USDA Federal agency, APFO can order the imagery for your office via an Economy Act agreement, however, the administrative costs will require reimbursement.

Who acquires the imagery?

Independent contractors acquire the AgSat imagery. There were three contractors originally on the BPA, however because of corporate restructuring in the private sector, there are only two contractors now.

How is the imagery acquired?

Acquisition is entirely completed with satellite platforms. The sensors in use vary widely as to spectral, spatial, and temporal resolution, and other parameters.

What is the spectral resolution of the imagery?

Imagery may be 3 band natural color or color infrared (CIR), 4-band including the CIR band, 8-band including a number of bands depending on end user requirements, or even more than 8-bands if a sensor is deployed by one of the BPA contractors that has such capacity. Additional specifications can be found within the AgSat BPA Solicitation at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/APFO/ag-8447-s-12-0006.pdf>

What spatial resolution is the imagery?

AgSat imagery resolution varies as well depending on the end user requirements. Generally imagery will range from 2-meter ground sample distance (GSD) up to ½-meter GSD, but is not limited to that spatial resolution range. Newer sensors have the capability to acquire imagery of much higher spatial resolution and some restrictions on the resolution of imagery a satellite contractor can sell commercially have been eased, to allow up to 25-cm greyscale and 1-m resolution color imagery to be sold. Additional specifications can be found within the AgSat BPA Solicitation at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/APFO/ag-8447-s-12-0006.pdf>

What is the accuracy specification?

The AgSat BPA allows for each order to specify the target accuracy. Additional specifications can be found within the AgSat BPA Solicitation at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/APFO/ag-8447-s-12-0006.pdf>

Is the imagery reviewed when received?

Since many USDA Agencies may use the BPA and the imagery is directly delivered to the ordering agency, APFO does not control the QA/QC procedures for these orders. APFO does however QC orders for FSA using stringent imagery compliance guidelines, such as inspection using automated and visual methods to ensure accuracy and compliance.

How is the imagery formatted?

Imagery typically is delivered as geotiff format ortho imagery tiles. Imagery may be mosaicked and color balanced. Imagery may also be delivered with lower resolution color images and higher resolution greyscale images that can then be pan sharpened to create a higher resolution color product.

How much does AgSat imagery cost?

Costs vary greatly by vintage, product specifications, and volume. Contact the APFO Contracting Office at jacque.lacroix@slc.usda.gov or at 801-844-2915 for detailed information.

Is AgSat imagery available for purchase?

AgSat imagery is licensed, and thus cannot be resold. There are various license levels. FSA generally purchases an enterprise license that allows for sharing among other Federal agencies, with some limitations as described in individual license files.

Who do I contact for more information?

While APFO does not know about all AgSat acquisitions, APFO tracks those they are aware of with two maps on Esri ArcGIS Online for Organizations.

Planned Acquisitions can be seen here:

<http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=459988478b7f47c08d33318bc3862d22>

Footprints of data that have already been acquired can be seen here:

<http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=f935f20666eb446c94ebcdaae943d606>

If you are interested in using the BPA, contact the APFO Contracting Office at jacque.lacroix@slc.usda.gov or at 801-844-2915 for detailed information.

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