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## **Defra Appoints Telespazio UK as Service Provider for Key Environmental Data Platform**

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- **Telespazio UK and Agrimetrics awarded Defra Data Services Platform (DSP3) contract**
- **The current DSP2 platform serves 650 Defra Group partners and 300 contractors and supported 1.8 billion Application Programming Interface calls in 2019-2021**
- **The new data service will provide a next generation data marketplace which will help improve the wider reusability of Defra's rich data for public use**

Telespazio UK, a subsidiary of Telespazio (a joint venture between Leonardo, 67%, and Thales, 33%), and partner Agrimetrics have been awarded the Data Services Platform (DSP3) contract by the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra).

Defra collects a substantial amount of environmental data (including animal and plant health, farming, biosecurity, operational) critical to achieving its strategic objectives in helping wider Government, the commercial sector and stakeholders meet targets to protect and improve the environment. By sharing its data, Defra can provide stakeholders with data and evidence to monitor change and inform future decision making and operational services which are critical for improving our environment and other Defra outcome priorities. Better data helps make better decisions, which will be vital in achieving the nation's environmental improvements. Telespazio UK and Agrimetrics are proud to help Defra deliver the ambition of the Government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#).

Together, Telespazio UK and Agrimetrics will provide a next generation evolution of the data services platform in the frame of the DSP3 contract. Telespazio UK has more than 40 years' experience of delivering operational, end-user-driven services for a multitude of UK and European customers. Agrimetrics, an SME created through Innovate UK funding in 2015, has created and is operating the enterprise grade Data Marketplace for the UK agri-food sector.

The current Data Services Platform (DSP) serves 650 Defra Group partners, 300 contracting entities, about 13,000 individual users, and supported 1.8 billion Application Programming Interface calls in 2019-2021. Examples of key data sets provided are those of flood risk, bathing water quality, and fish populations.

Linked data technology enables connections between related data sets to be managed and optimised. DSP3 will utilise the power of linked data to enable users and consumers to access and understand data from the entire platform in a manner that fits their use case. This will ensure that all Defra data is truly discoverable and accessible, significantly enhancing the utilisation and social value delivered by use of the data with an expanding set of user communities.

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**Telespazio**, a Leonardo and Thales 67/33 joint venture, is one of the world's leading operators in satellite services. Its activities range from the design and development of space systems to the management of launch services, from in-orbit satellite control to Earth observation, from integrated communications, satellite navigation and localisation services to scientific programmes. Telespazio plays a leading role in the reference markets harnessing technological experience acquired over the years. Since its establishment, the company has participated in major European space programmes such as Galileo, EGNOS, Copernicus and COSMO-SkyMed. In 2021, Telespazio generated sales of EUR 605 million while employing more than 3,000 people in nine different countries.

DSP3 will exploit the existing Agrimetrics Data Marketplace platform to enable greater interoperability with other platforms and services to expand the usage of data and evolution of technical services. Combined with the service management and Agile development methodology experience of Telespazio UK, the team will bring a modern, resilient and intuitive linked data-centric offering to users.

**Chris Howes, Chief Digital Technology Officer, Digital Data and Technology Services at Defra** said “Partnering with Telespazio and Agrimetrics provides a fantastic opportunity for Defra to modernise its data sharing services platform, and expand the usability of our data across the government and the public data marketplace in line with government [Roadmap for digital and data, 2022 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#).”

**CEO of Telespazio UK, Mark Hewer** said “It’s very exciting to be working with Defra and Agrimetrics at the forefront of delivering and modernising such a critical UK data platform. We look forward to delivering a first-class product with a comprehensive user service, which hosts more data and engages even more users, so that the DSP is recognised as a world-leading infrastructure that underpins environmental improvements and social value gains.”

**Agrimetrics CEO, David Flanders** said “The world needs quickly to link environmental data to business decisions to help us reach our global commitments for reducing and reversing our impact on the climate and biodiversity. Agrimetrics are excited to be working with Telespazio UK and Defra to deliver this programme at scale using our infrastructure and data expertise.”

## ABOUT DEFRA

Defra is the leading UK government department responsible for improving and protecting the environment. Defra aims to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities. Defra also supports the UK’s world-leading food, farming and fishing industries. Its broad remit means Defra plays a major role in people’s day-to-day life in the UK, from the food we eat, and the air we breathe, to the water we drink. Defra is here to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Defra’s mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, leaving it in a better state than we found it.

## ABOUT AGRIMETRICS

Agrimetrics was created in 2015 with initial public funding from Innovate UK as one of four agri-tech centres to help organisations realise the potential trapped in their Data. In 2019, Agrimetrics launched the first Agri-food Data Exchange as the infrastructure for linking, hosting and sharing datasets.

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