

# COMPASS

A joint effort to meet the need for maritime situation awareness to counter increasing piracy and theft on the high seas

The increasing risk of piracy, terrorism and accidental encroachment into operating areas present new and unprecedented challenges to operations in the maritime environment.

MDA Geospatial Services (MDA GSI) and Kongsberg Satellite Services (KSAT) have created “COMPASS” -a joint initiative demonstrating the use of satellite based SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) data to monitor the situation in the Gulf of Aden and Somali coastline in response to piracy issues.



*Circling pirates photographed by a British passenger aboard the Seabourn Spirit. (Photo Norman J Fisher/AP)*

Satellite images provide a synoptic overview that allows authorities to identify areas or objects that should be more closely observed. Hence optimising the use of surveillance aircrafts and coastguard vessels, producing a more efficient surveillance plan.

The “COMPASS” web service will provide vessel positions detected in satellite images. For each vessel, information about geographical location (latitude & longitude coordinates), estimated vessel length and heading is provided. Combining satellite based information with other available vessel tracking systems will allow **non-reporting vessels** to be highlighted.

“COMPASS” will explore satellite based AIS information in combination with Radarsat-2 data in this demonstration.

The demonstration is demonstrated free of charge for a limited time and made available through the dedicated web-portal to registered users. In addition to the coast of Somalia, other areas are planned to be included in the service. For username and password application click [here](#)



KONGSBERG



*RADARSAT-2 is Canada’s most advanced commercial SAR satellite and MDA will provide access to RADARSAT-2 data for the demonstration portal. KSAT’s unique northern locations of Tromsø and SvalSat are ideal for data acquisition and TT&C services and KSAT will provide frequent satellite reception and rapid vessel detection analysis and correlation.*