

Bluesky Aerial Survey Helps Malta Develop Geospatial Infrastructure



Aerial mapping company Bluesky has captured aerial photography and 3D map coverage of Malta. Working alongside tender lead IIC Technologies and Ordnance Survey, Bluesky captured ultra-high resolution aerial photography together with high density LiDAR measurements. Part of project SIntegraM - Spatial Data Integration for the Maltese Islands, the data will be used across various government departments and entities as part of the ERDF.02.030; a Maltese Government project led by the Planning Authority through ERDF Funding.

"The timely capture of such detailed aerial photography and height measurements by Bluesky is a first for Malta," said Ashley Hili, SIntegraM Project Leader from the Planning Authority, Malta. "This will give us the best possible base mapping to move forward with

our ambitious plans to create a geospatial infrastructure that will deliver real value to the nation."

The €7 million SIntegraM Project was announced in 2017 and is co-funded by the EU and the Government of Malta. The project aims to develop and implement a national spatial data infrastructure and enhance the capacity of geospatial/GIS technology expertise for Malta. Within the project scope is the creation of critical base datasets including new base mapping, at various scales, for the archipelago.

Based out of the Malta International Airport, Bluesky operated a specially equipped Cessna 404 survey aircraft. Using state of the art equipment, including an UltraCam Eagle camera and Optech Galaxy laser scanner, Bluesky captured high overlap, 6cm, multispectral (RGB & NIR) imagery for the five islands. Approximately 5,000 images were captured for the production of a true ortho digital dataset allowing for the elimination of building lean which means detail in the narrow streets, that might normally be obscured, will be visible.

Bluesky also captured a high density LiDAR dataset flying approximately 300 parallel flight lines over the islands. Totalling approximately 45 billion individual measurements the data will be used to produce a classified point cloud as well as dense (more than 40 points per metre) Digital Surface and Digital Terrain Models (DSM/DTM).