

EDITORIAL

The EARSel Special Interest Group in Imaging Spectroscopy (<http://atcor.dlr.de/SIG-IS.htm>) runs a series of workshops that started in 1998 in Zurich, Switzerland, and since then has turned into a lively discussion forum.

After eight successful workshops, the opportunity to be the host of the 9th EARSel Workshop on Imaging Spectroscopy was jointly given to Trier University and Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology. The event took place in April 2015 in Luxembourg and this Special Issue highlights some of the work that has been presented.

Imaging spectroscopy, the idea of using light as a diagnostic source of information has been picking up momentum since the 1980s and turned into an exciting and challenging field of research. Taking measurements in many, narrow spectral bands will be possible from space in a few years, and has just become feasible from remotely piloted airborne systems.

At the same time the latest imaging spectrometers measure not only in the traditional visible and near-infrared regions, but now also cover fluorescence and the thermal- and mid-infrared regions (see paper by Rousset-Rouviere and co-workers, this issue). The advances being made in spectrometer measurements, mature radiometric processing (see paper by Schläpfer and Richter, this issue) and analytical techniques, such as canopy reflectance modelling (see paper by Verrelst and co-workers, this issue) allow us today to explore numerous applications, for instance in plant stress detection (see paper by Middleton and co-workers, this issue), tree species mapping (see paper by Sommer and co-workers, this issue) and crop yield estimation (see paper by Gerighausen and co-workers, this issue).

This edition will be complemented by an additional special issue on the same event to be published in JSTARS in summer 2016. We wish the outcomes of the workshop might further promote the development of the field. The Editors thank all contributors and peer reviewers for their valuable contributions.

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