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Mr.
Mark McBeth
Project Coordinator, FireSat
Global Environmental Sensor Constellation

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Letter of Support for the proposed FireSat – Global Environmental Sensor Constellation

Dear Mr. McBeth

I am writing from the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) (<http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de>), an institution of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science and co-chair of the *Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD) Fire Implementation Team* (<http://gofc-fire.umd.edu/>). The GFMC is operating under the auspices of the *United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)* and is serving the UN system in the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. Doing so, the GFMC is coordinating and facilitating the *UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group*, an advisory body to the UN, and the *UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN)*. The GWFN and its 14 regional networks, including dedicated regional fire monitoring and management centers, provide policy advice, and science and technology transfer to enhance fire management capacities.

Furthermore, the GFMC provides a global portal for wildland fire documentation, information, archive and monitoring and is publicly accessible through the Internet. The data and information that the GFMC is using for decision making globally are provided by partner institutions like NASA or DLR which are operating spaceborne systems that identify, localize and characterize active vegetation fires and their impacts on ecosystems and the atmosphere, and on human health and security. However, currently available spaceborne fire observation systems have insufficient spatial and temporal resolution to meet the needs for rapid response and decision making in fire management.

Therefore the GFMC endorses the overall objectives and envisaged services of the FireSat Global Environmental Sensor Constellation, which is expected to contribute overcoming the shortcomings of satellite-based capabilities in fire management and decision making globally. This will be of particular importance for enhancing fire management capacities in remote regions of limited to none accessibility and / or lack of ground infrastructures for fire management in the circumboreal and northern temperate zone including North America (Canada and USA), Eurasia (Russian Federation, Eastern European and Central Asian countries) and the tropics (Central Africa, South America and Southeast Asia).

Please feel free to use this letter in the frame of application for financial support for the development of an operational FireSat constellation.

With kind regards

Prof. Dr. Johann Georg Goldammer
Director, Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)