



AEgis

The coast of Haiti is shown in this image from AEgis.

AEgis' 3-D images aid Haiti recovery

Views showed how much 'destruction changed the area'

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It's not unusual to find engineers spending all night working to get a project out by deadline for a government contract.

At AEgis Technologies, three workers spent all of last weekend working at the office to get a project finished.

For humanitarian reasons.

For free.

On Friday, the satellite im-

On the Net

AEgis Technologies -
aegistg.com

DigitalGlobe -
digitalglobe.com

In today's Times

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aging company DigitalGlobe asked AEgis, based in Huntsville, to create a 3-D database of Haiti. Scott Allman and two other members of his geospatial programs team got right to work.

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"Within two hours of the call, Digital's satellite was over Haiti," said Allman, the geospatial programs director for AEgis. "Two hours later, the information was downloaded here."

Then, the three created a 3-D database of images of Haiti - before and after last week's earthquake.

"We went back six months to get old imagery of Haiti and compare it to the new images," Allman said.

Allman said with process imagery AEgis was able to take elevation and other pertinent data to create the 3-D view of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital and the epicenter of the earthquake.

The information would reveal where streets and access ways were before they were buried by rubble from fallen buildings.

"We were able to get places of interest, such as the (presidential) palace, and rendered it out to see all sides of the buildings," he said. "We were able to see how much the destruction had changed the area."

Since satellite photos provide, basically, a view from above, AEgis' 3-D imaging yields views from ground level and various angles - quickly.

"It's Google Earth on steroids," Allman said. "What used to take weeks takes a matter of hours with this."

AEgis provides modeling and simulation development, engineering analysis, hardware design and nanotechnology manufacturing for municipal, government, commercial and military applications.

Using the technology for this purpose excites Allman.

"When we can use technology for something peaceful," he said, "it's huge."

The company is providing the information to the various aid agencies on the ground in Haiti - again, at no charge - for their rescue and reconstruction efforts.

"We have it available for the Red Cross, the U.N., UNICEF," Allman said, "as well as the DoD and private agencies, such as Samaritan's Purse."

DigitalGlobe provides commercial, high-resolution, world imagery products and services, and AEgis has worked with the company on other projects, including the Beijing Olympics and, more recently, next month's Winter Games in Vancouver.

In fact, Allman's team was in the midst of putting the final touches on the Vancouver project when it got the call from DigitalGlobe.

The team worked overnight Friday and stayed at the company's office in Cummings Research Park through the weekend.