

# Report: GEOINT Community Week 2016

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### Summary:

Hosted by the US Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)<sup>1</sup>, GEOINT Community Week 2016 was held near Washington D.C., USA, from November 14 to 18, 2016. I attended a meeting titled the "Small Satellites Workshop (Unclassified)", held on Monday, November 14th, and two other meetings held on Nov. 15th: "YPG Presents: GEOINT Workforce and Emerging Technology Workshop" and "GEOINteraction Tuesday". The "Small Satellites Workshop (Unclassified)" was carried out at the NGA head office. This report describes details about the discussions carried out at these conferences.

Two other events held the same week, the "Small Satellites Workshop (Classified)" and "NGA Tech Showcase East", and seemed interesting, but only participants with clearances issued by the United States government were allowed to attend. I could only attend events and meetings that did not require such clearances.

The GEOINT Symposium is held each spring, and covers a wide range of topics and exhibitions. The GEOINT Community Week appears to have been established in order to foster discussion around technical and political matters, in greater detail than the symposium. 300 people, mainly representing intelligence and defence companies, registered the "Small Satellites Workshop (Unclassified)" event.

<sup>1</sup> USGIF: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF). A non-profit organization dedicated to supporting geospatial intelligence tradecraft. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is one of the USGIF's main clients.

Participants included those engaged with various governments and companies that belong mainly to the US.

### Our Impressions:

Organizations related to defence and security are the most important customers in respect to earth observation by satellites. As the event was titled "Small Satellites Workshop (Unclassified)", issues surrounding small satellites should have been discussed. As the event was held at the NGA head offices, and most discussions centred around national security/defence (intelligence), and related business. This event was held immediately after some notable occurrences: the WorldView-4 satellite owned by Digital Globe was successfully launched, and the Pathfinder-1 satellite (launched last September) owned by BlackSky Global released its first satellite images. Small satellite operating companies, such as TerraBella, Planet (previously known as Planet Labs), and BlackSky Global (Space Flight Industries) were leaders of the discussion. It was notable that other companies, such as Hera and UrtheCast, did not appear to take part in this workshop.

<Omitted below>

### Presentations & Lectures:

<Omitted below>

### Other Miscellaneous Comments

This workshop was held only one week after Mr. Donald Trump was elected to be the next President of the United States of America. There was much discussion related to the



The Director of the NGA © USGIF

change, and many questions and rumors were raised about how the next U.S. administration might influence and affect satellite business. Mr. Robert Cardillo, Director of the NGA, simply said that he assumes related budgets will be unchanged, flat, and hopefully stable.

As the event came to a close, it was announced that Excellency Clapper, a founder of the NGA and the father of GEOINT, will resign as the Director of National Intelligence. One can say for certain that defence security activity in the U.S., especially intelligence activities that utilize satellites directly, will be influenced greatly by decisions made by the U.S. government.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact:



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