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DigitalGlobe lands billion-dollar deal

By Business Report Staff

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LONGMONT - DigitalGlobe Inc. in Longmont received a contract that could last up to 10 years and be worth as much as \$3.6 billion from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to produce a new generation of satellite imagery.

DigitalGlobe's constellation of three satellites currently provide high-resolution images of the earth to the U.S. government agency that oversees satellite imagery collection for military and intelligence work.

The agency also awarded a contract worth up to \$3.8 billion over 10 years to GeoEye, based in Dulles, Virginia.

The contracts are part of a program called EnhancedView. Each contract is paid annually, subject to congressional approval and can be canceled annually. The long-term funding paves the way for development of next-generation satellites with higher resolution - in other words, able to discern finer details of the subjects being photographed, though the U.S. government reserves the highest-fidelity imagery for itself.

"To support requirements under the agreement, DigitalGlobe will immediately begin procurement and construction of its next satellite, WorldView-3, which the company anticipates will be ready for launch by the end of 2014," DigitalGlobe said in a statement.