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GeoEye's Eye On ... Kutztown

GeoEye, the Dulles provider of satellite and aerial imagery, has been boasting that its latest eye in the sky is “the world’s highest resolution and most accurate commercial imaging satellite.”

Now it offers proof, with the first image it said it collected from GeoEye-1 since the bird was launched into space Sept. 6.



“Though the satellite collects imagery at 0.41-meter ground resolution, due to U.S. licensing restrictions, commercial customers will only get access to imagery that has been processed to half-meter ground resolution,” the company said.

The photo was snapped at high noon on Oct. 7 as the satellite moved north to south 423 miles above the Earth at four-and-one-half miles per second.

Behold Kutztown at half-meter ground resolution.

Photo courtesy of the GeoEye-1

Impressive, we thought, until we realized the first image was not of some tropical paradise, or even a Washington landmark, but of **Kutztown University** located midway between Reading and Allentown, Pa.

Why the choice?

“When we opened the camera door at noon on Oct. 7 and looked down on the Earth 423 miles below the school was underneath us,” Mark E. Brender, GeoEye’s vice president for communications and marketing told us by e-mail. “It is truly our first image.”

By Dan Beyers | October 10, 2008; 3:00 PM ET
