Catching Drug Traffickers using a Combination of Satellite and Aircraft Case Study

**Challenge**
To identify suspected boat and confirm illegal activity.

**Solution and Results**
Efficient daily monitoring of suspected boat using maritime patrol aircraft and satellites to analyse route and optimise prediction.

**Benefits**
Budget optimisation: the combination of aircraft and satellites reduce mission budget to one third of cost.
Challenge
To identify suspected boat and confirm illegal activity.

Solution and Results
Daily monitoring of suspected boat using maritime patrol aircraft and satellites.

Detection and Classification
November 19, 12h59 UTC
- 24 boats detected
- 2 boats fit the description

Identification
November 22, 12h00 UTC
Validation of the hypothesis

Analysis
- Abnormal behaviour of boats in trailer mode
- Cap, course, speed analysed to predict next position

Monitoring
November 23, 13h16 UTC
Boats changing cap

Analysis
- Abnormal activity confirmed
- Cap, course, speed analysed to predict next position

Interception
November 24, 13h08 UTC

Analysis
- Cap, course, speed analysed
- Cap has changed, critical time to launch the arrest

Outcome
Surinam, French customs seize 552kg of cocaine on a sailboat. This illustrates the importance of international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.

Benefits
Combined use of aircraft and satellites reduces mission budget to one third of the cost.