Case Studies

AAM Deploys GeoDue for RCD30 Data Production

GeoCue

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Revision 1.0

AAM is a geospatial services company based in Australia with offices and operations around the globe. They began performing aerial surveys over 50 years ago and today operate a fleet of 14 aerial survey aircraft equipped with a range of digital aerial cameras and airborne LIDAR sensors. We recently had the opportunity to work with AAM as they prepared to ramp-up for deployment of their Leica RCD30 oblique camera system.

This camera system is designed for high-accuracy 3D urban mapping and 3D corridor mapping applications. It is built around 5x 80 MP camera heads – one nadir and four oblique – offering simultaneous 4-band RGBN image capture. The core processing for RCD30 imagery is done via Leica's standard FramePro toolset. We have been working closely with Leica to transition the FramePro workflow (and several other Leica sensor workflows) into the GeoCue production framework. Wrapping a robust processing package like FramePro in GeoCue's integrated production environment provides significant improvements in automation, data management and throughput for image processing.

FramePro is still the core processing tool, but adding GeoCue's integrated map view provides an updated interface for the user, who is typically more accustomed to working with outmoded spreadsheet-like lists of photo centers that don't provide an intuitive view of project status. Integrated data management tools in GeoCue built around a central data repository or warehouse remove the need for AAM production staff to spend time on this critical, but often overlooked, area of running an efficient production shop.

Finally, by tightly integrating the FramePro command library with GeoCue's distributed processing engine, batch processing of large image sets becomes much simpler while built-in robust error trapping streamlines image development. Using multiple processing nodes for parallel processing of photo centers, large batch jobs can accelerate the image processing time for a project by 70% or more, providing significant automation advantages for AAM's production staff.

Even though they were new to the RCD30 sensor and the processing software, in a little under a week AAM staff were up-to-speed on using GeoCue's FramePro environment to maximize their processing capabilities while adding GeoCue's robust workflow tracking tools to their existing management systems. We are looking forward to working closely with AAM as they ramp-up their RCD30 work. We have found from experience nothing helps improve GeoCue more than stress-testing it in real world situations. We have already started improving the FramePro integration based on AAM's helpful feedback. Technical tweaks to the environment along with additions like workflow guides will all be rolled out to other RCD30/GeoCue users over the next few months. In particular, the addition of workflow guides to help step users through the high-level tasks needed for a specific workflow is an area we have been investigating in GeoCue. It is timely that one of the first workflow guides we will be deploying is for the RCD30 workflow (the other is for the DMC).

If you are an RCD30 operator – or plan to be – and you would like to learn how the GeoCue FramePro environment can help you accelerate your image production, please contact us (mflood@geocue.com) or your local Leica sales representative and ask for a personal web demonstration.

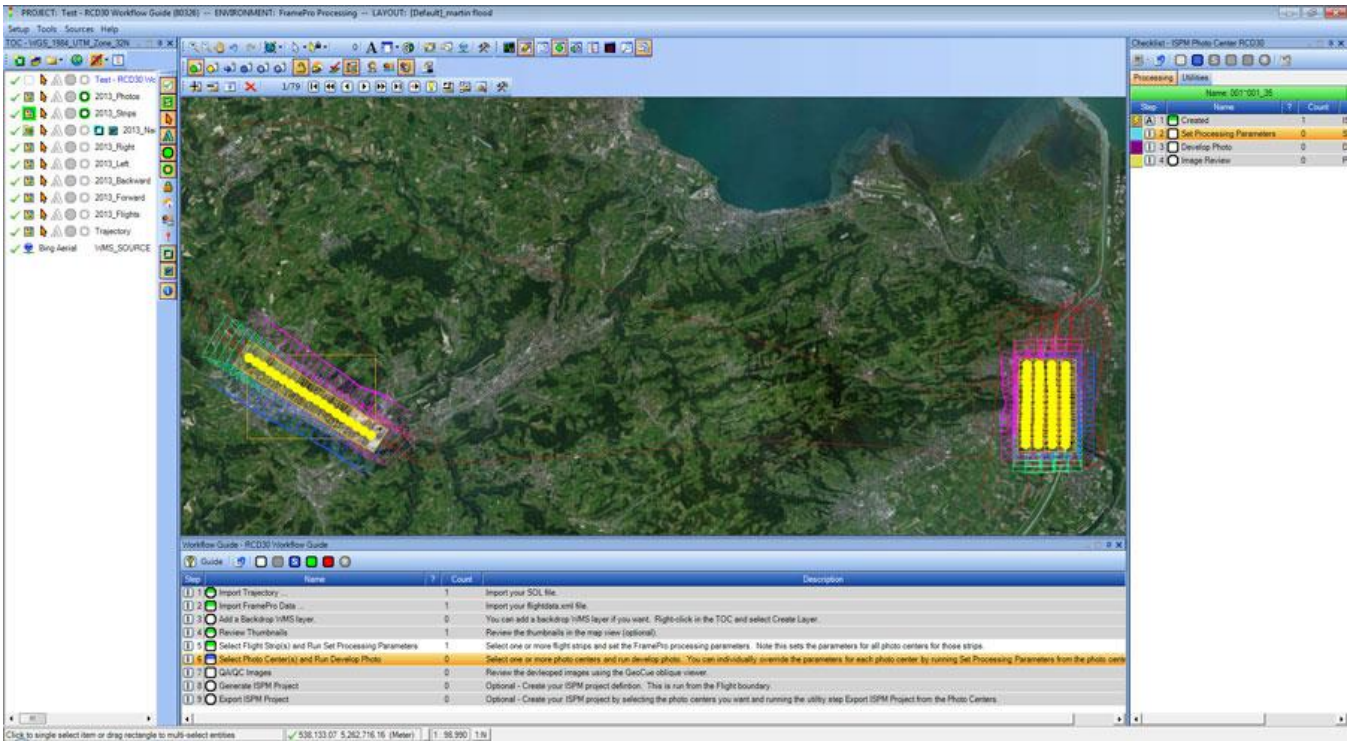

Figure 1 - Setting-up batch processing in GeoCue of 395 RCD30 images covering two separate collection zones. Note the workflow guide below the map view.