



Artificial Intelligence from Poland for German Satellites

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The German **Rheinmetall** has signed an agreement with **SATIM Monitoring Satelitarny**, a **Polish** company (based in Krakow), to assist Germany in a satellite reconnaissance program called **SPOCK-1**.

The key point to emphasize is this: **the Artificial Intelligence (AI) part that “understands” satellite images is not provided by a German company, but by a non-national company, namely Polish (SATIM).**

The SPOCK-1 project is industrially managed by **Rheinmetall ICEYE Space Solutions**, a **joint venture** (i.e., a company created together) between Rheinmetall and the Finnish company **ICEYE**, specialized in radar satellites.

- **SATIM (Poland)**: provides the **AI** tools for automatic radar image analysis.

- **Rheinmetall (Germany)**: maintains **operations and system control in Germany**, thus deciding how to use the system and manage the service.

Rheinmetall also presents it as a step towards an increasingly “digital” way of fighting, where transforming data into quick decisions is crucial.

Why SAR satellites are needed and why AI is essential

The SPOCK-1 satellites use **SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar)**, which is an orbiting radar.

Unlike “normal” (optical) photos, SAR is useful because:

- it works **at night**,
- often works even with **clouds and bad weather**,
- allows for more continuous surveillance over time.

However, there is a problem: a constellation of satellites generates **a huge number of images** and SAR images are “technical” and complex to interpret. If you have to do it all manually, it takes too long.

And this is where SATIM comes in: according to available information, the Polish company will provide **AI** tools that are needed to:

- analyze **large volumes** of radar images,
- transform complex images into **more readable results** (such as useful reports and analyses),
- help achieve greater **situation awareness** and support operational decisions.

Put very simply: satellites “collect” data, but without AI, you risk having a mountain of images that are difficult to use. With AI, however, you can quickly reach an answer like: “there has been a change here”, “there is an important object here”, “there is movement here”.



The context: why Germany is investing so much in space (and why it is controversial)

The agreement with SATIM does not arise in a vacuum: in mid-December 2025, Rheinmetall and ICEYE obtained a large contract with the Bundeswehr worth about **1.7 billion euros** to provide space reconnaissance through **exclusive access** to a constellation of SAR satellites.

According to contract communications, the program is scheduled **from late 2025 to 2030**, with the possibility of extension.

In practice, Germany wants:

- **more “eyes” from space** (reconnaissance with SAR),
- and also more secure military communications.

In fact, in parallel, Germany is also investing in **protected satellite communications**: in 2024, **Airbus** received the “SATCOMBw 3” contract (worth **2.1 billion euros**) for the next generation of secure satellite communications, including geostationary satellites, ground infrastructure, launch, and operations for 15 years.

Why the fact “SATIM is Polish” is a huge detail

Because here we are not talking about a secondary piece: **AI is the part that transforms images into useful information**. So, even if:

- management remains in Germany (Rheinmetall),
- and the satellites are linked to industrial partners chosen by the project,

a key component of the analysis is entrusted to a foreign (Polish) company.

This can be seen in two ways (always simply):

- **Pro:** within the EU there is collaboration and the best available technology is taken without having to rebuild it from scratch.
- **Sensitive point:** when such an important part is not “national”, it is normal for some to wonder how strategic it is to depend on a foreign supplier for AI.

In conclusion: SPOCK-1 shows how today military space is not just about “having satellites”, but above all **having software and AI** to use data quickly. And in this case, the AI comes **from Poland**, not from Germany.

News link: <https://thedefensepost.com/2025/12/23/rheinmetall-polish-firm-germany-satellite/>