

## Ten Top Tips Learnt Working for a Small Remote Sensing Company

I am approaching the end of my year at Pixalytics, and this blog is summary of what I've learnt from working for a small commercial remote sensing company.

The work itself has been a real blessing for me. Remote sensing product development was just the role I had been looking for, so I took it on with relish. During the year I have spent time researching, and supporting the product development of, flood mapping using SAR imagery, vegetation time series and light pollution.

I've learnt a huge amount over the past twelve months, and here are my **top ten tips** on researching & developing remote sensing products:

1. Keep in mind who your stakeholders are and exactly what they require.
2. Ensure your ground site is really covered by the satellite image, as coverage tends to be diagonal rather than straightforward latitude and longitude square and can miss a site altogether.
3. Practise program version control at all times!
4. Check the images you are using are the best ones for your requirements, i.e., not 16 day composites when daily images are more suitable and available; stopping you wasting a day downloading the wrong images!
5. Write down problem solving routines, so next time you can do it for yourself!
6. It's always important to run pilots and streamline programming. This will save time and effort, and help verify that your end product is statistically robust.
7. Write down what you find and keep good records of your algorithms and programming, so that you don't duplicate work.
8. Write technical notes on your work, so that programs can be easily shared, reviewed and run by others.
9. Allow sufficient time before deadlines for reviewing and reworking.
10. Make notes on the data you are using as you go along, including source, dates, locations and any company/organisation credits needed.

These are all lessons I'll be taking with me when I leave, whether in commerce or academia.

It's also been an insight into how a business is run, via these activities and hearing (one side!) of Sam's teleconferences. Plus I've been involved in valuable encounters with the Environment Agency on products and have attended conferences, and given a presentation at one, on behalf of Pixalytics.

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Plymouth has also been fun to explore. I've enjoyed visiting the various arts venues all over the city together with the galleries and museums, festivals and excellent cuisine.

Many thanks to Sam and Andy at Pixalytics for giving me this opportunity. I'm sad to leave and have enjoyed my time here.

*Blog written by Dr Louisa Reynolds.*