

ARKeX adds second system to survey capacity

ARKeX, the UK-based developer of airborne gravity gradiometry services, is to double its survey capacity from early 2007 with the delivery of a second FTGeX full tensor gravity gradiometer system. The FTGeX system has been built by Lockheed Martin and adapted

by ARKeX for high resolution imaging and improved operational efficiency. The company says that its first system has been operating at full capacity.

The FTGeX system is said to represent a step change in resolution over conventional airborne gravity systems. The

increase in resolution means that features with significantly smaller wavelengths and/or low amplitudes that were previously too small or too deeply buried for gravity surveying can now be surveyed and imaged.

The company's second system will be flown in a Cessna Grand Caravan aircraft fully fitted for triaxial magnetic gradiometry and for high resolution laser altimetry to complement the gravity gradiometer capability. Managing director Kitty Hall said: 'At a time when ARKeX is experiencing strong demand in its operations, this second FTGeX will provide a vital boost to our capacity in the North American market. It is much needed as the current system has been fully booked since its deployment in the spring of 2005.'

The company has just opened an office in Houston, Texas to serve its North American client base.

