

The ESA Earth Observation Missions and their Exploitation for Science and Applications

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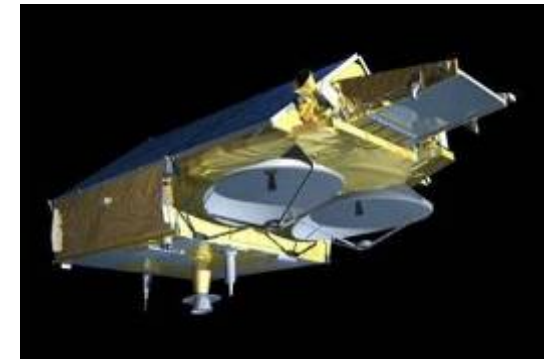
Head of Department “Science, Applications, and Future Technologies”

ESA Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes

European Space Agency

ESRIN, FRASCATI, ITALY

In Orbit: ESA Earth Observation satellites



- **Six EO missions in operation**
 - 5 more currently operated by Eumetsat
- **5000** data user projects worldwide—increasing further
- **100 Terabytes/yr** of data
- **30 partner missions** for which data disseminated to European users

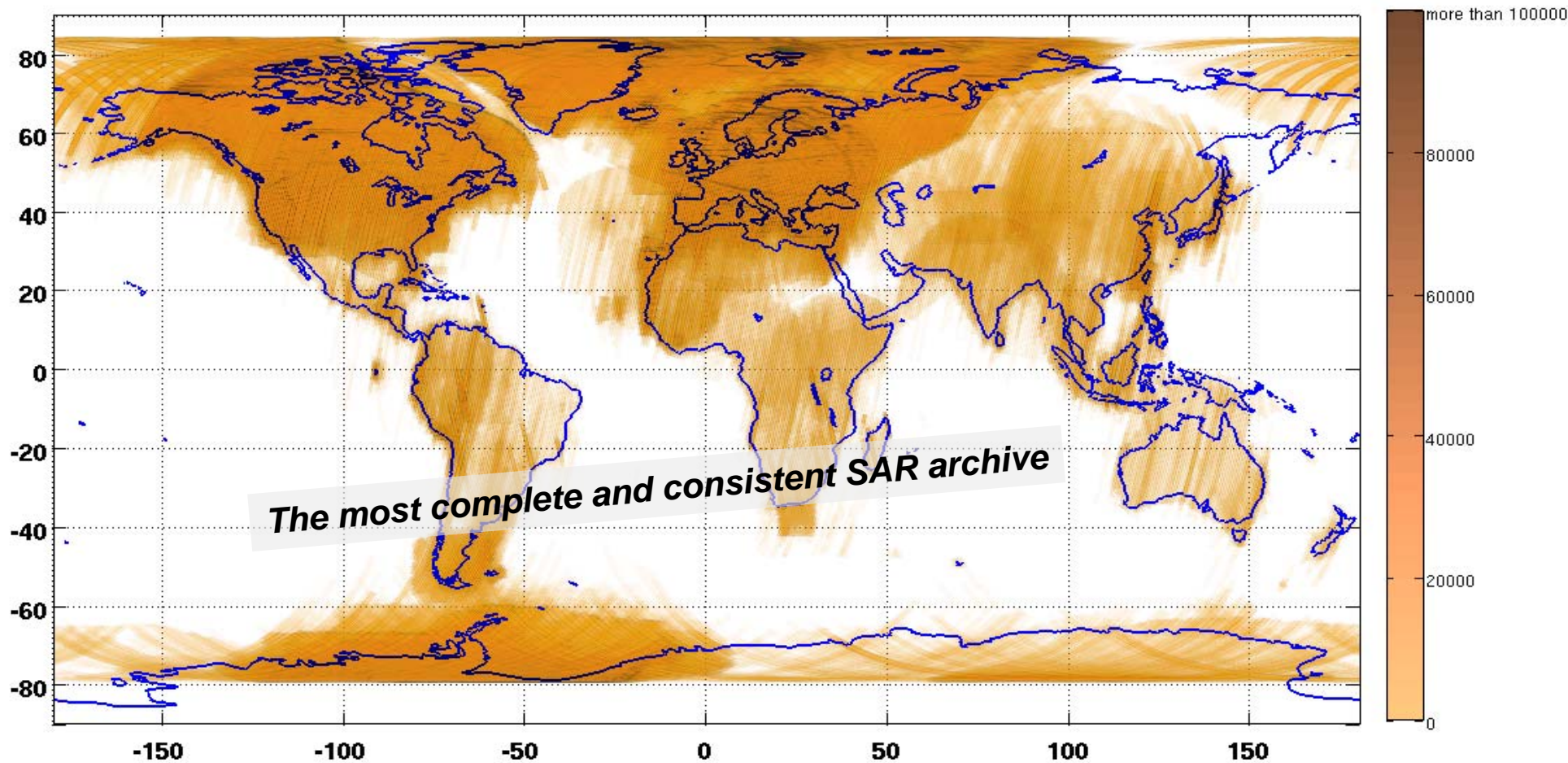
ERS Missions

ERS-1 and ERS-2 missions

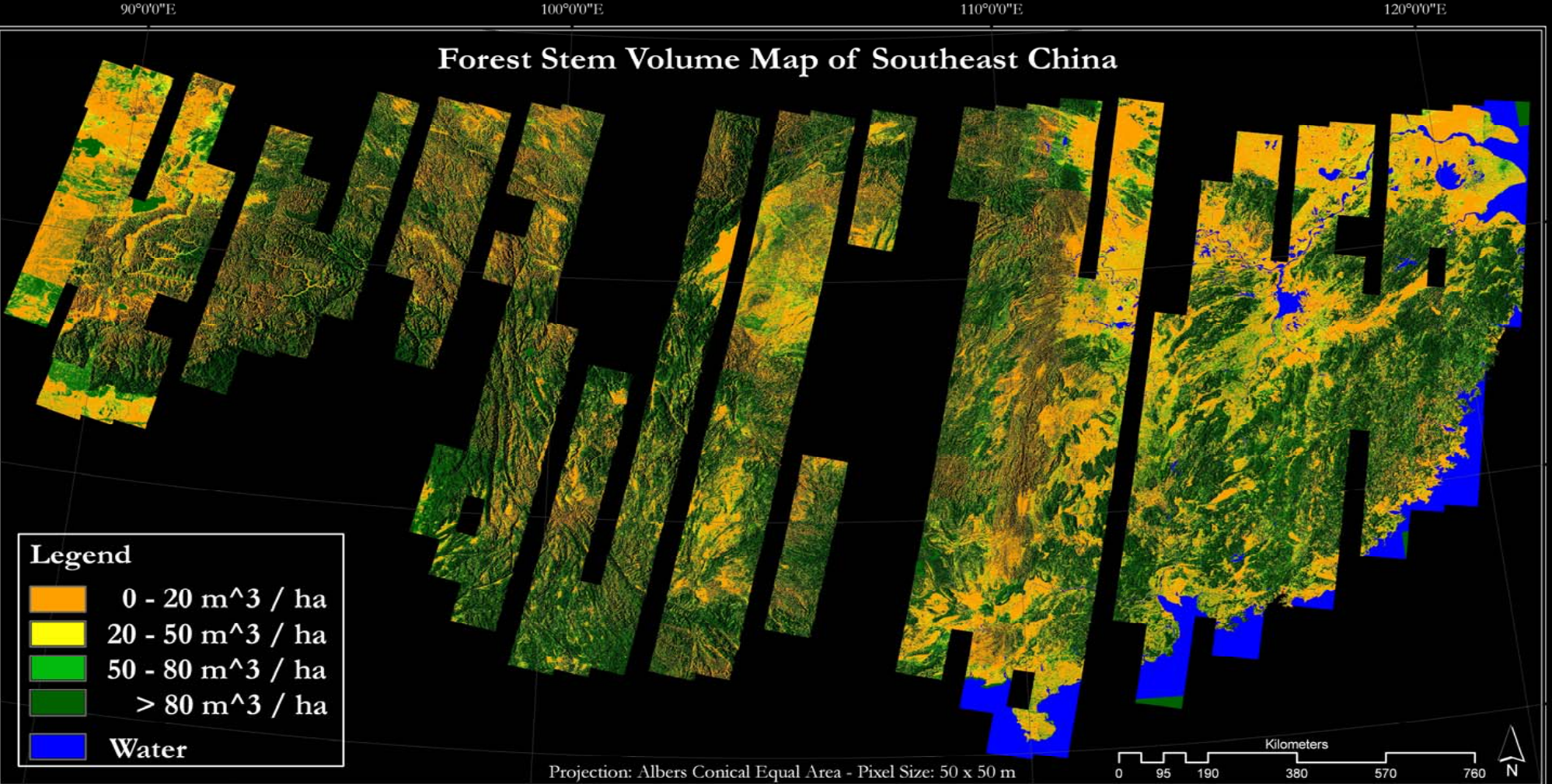


20 years of ERS-1/2 SAR data in the archive

ERS SAR Polarization: VV until mid 2009



Forest Stem Volume Map of Southeast China



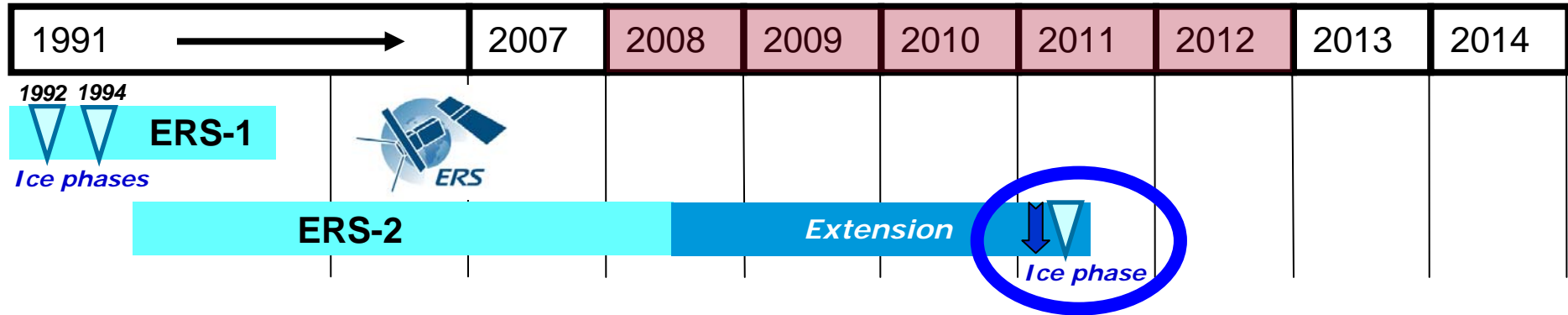
Legend	
	0 - 20 m ³ / ha
	20 - 50 m ³ / ha
	50 - 80 m ³ / ha
	> 80 m ³ / ha
	Water

Projection: Albers Conical Equal Area - Pixel Size: 50 x 50 m



SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

The last months of ERS-2 mission



- The **ERS-2 Ice Phase** (February to May 2011) is a **3-day repeat cycle** configuration identical to the ERS-1 Ice Phases (1992, 1994).
- **Recommended** by the scientific community (e.g. Fringe recommendations), it shall provide a unique science opportunity in several domains. It allows exploiting the newly acquired data in synergy with the historical dataset, taking advantage of the existence of GPS networks.
- Science domains addressed by the ERS-2 Ice Phase:
 - **sea-stream dynamics** (SAR): determination of polar glacier grounding lines; identification of the outlet ice-streams and model improvement; contribution to sea-level rise projection
 - **ice caps** (SAR): ice velocity, equilibrium line location
 - **synergy with CryoSat**: combination of altimetry & InSAR: thickness & velocity changes
 - **tectonics, volcanology** (InSAR): e.g. post-seismic deformation
 - **InSAR coherence** of targets with 6 & 12 days repeat (Sentinel-1 preparation)

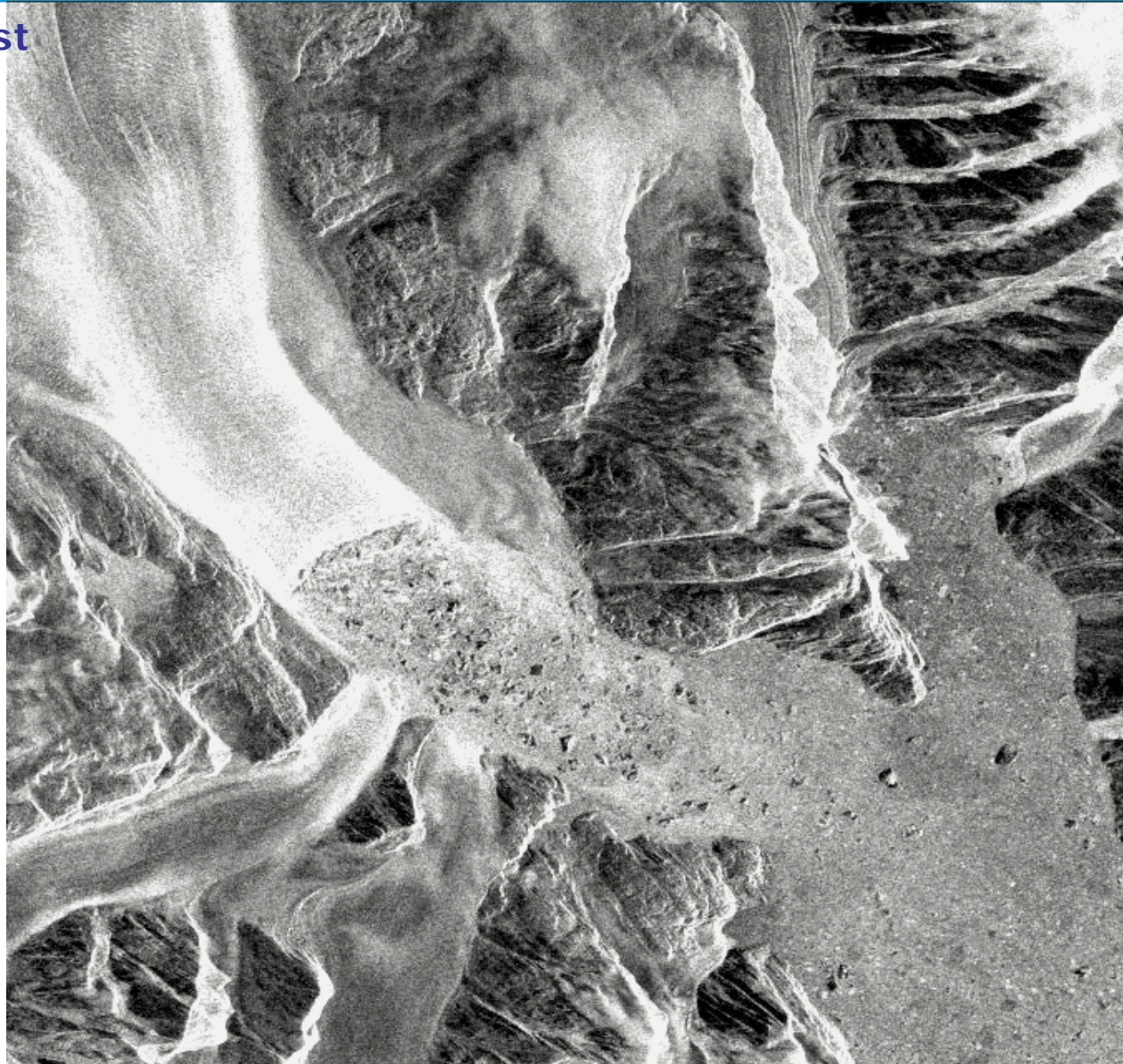


Ice Stream Tracking with SAR

ERS-2 Ice Phase



Kangerdlugssuaq Ice Stream (East Greenland)



ERS-2 Ice-Phase

- 3-day repeat cycle
- March - June 2011 (until deorbit)

13 SAR scenes from 2011

- 11,17,20 & 23 March
- 01,04,07,10,13,19,22 & 28 April
- 01 May

Calving front advances ~ 1.8km

Ice Stream Tracking with SAR

Comparison between 1992 and 2011



Kangerdlugssuaq Ice Stream



ERS-1 1st Ice-Phase

- 07 Feb 1992 (SAR)

ERS-2 Ice-Phase

- 11 Mar 2011 (SAR)

Calving front receded by ~5.5km

Notable thinning of glaciers and ice streams in the area.



Greenland glaciers' discharge



Maximum speed
~3 m.d⁻¹
~1 km.yr⁻¹

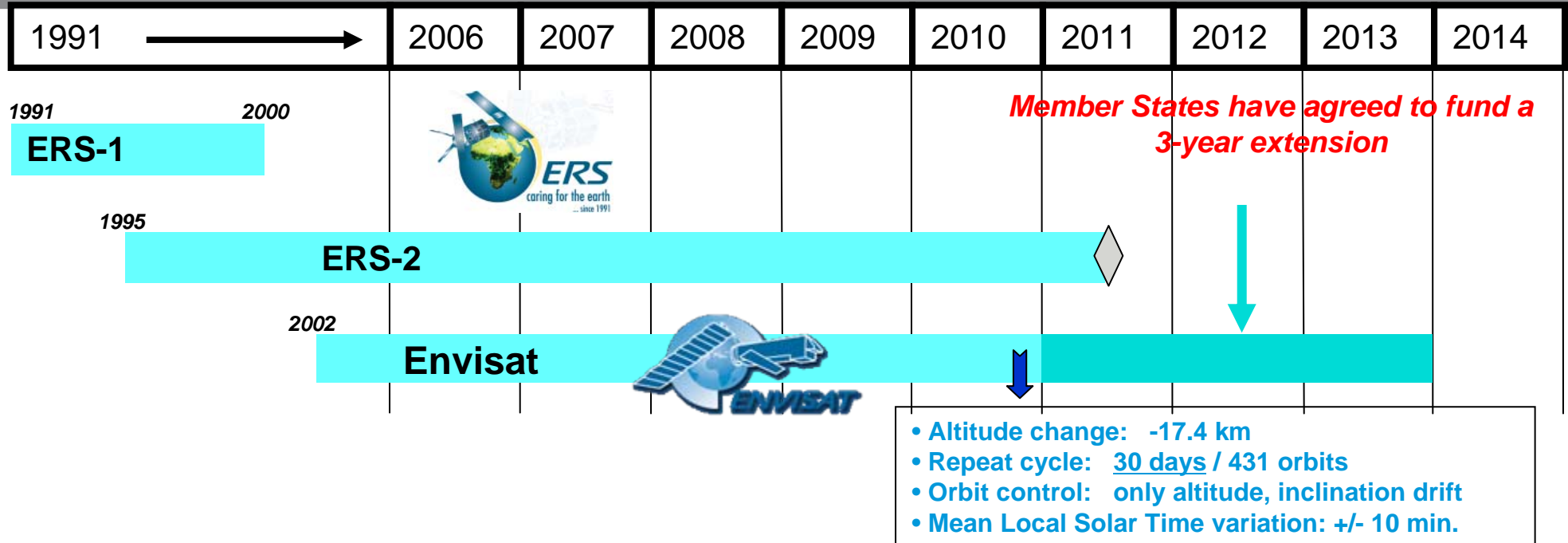
New ERS2 3-day mission allows for re-assessment of ice discharge measured during the 1st ice phase (1990's)

Here over the Petermann glacier, north-west Greenland

ENVISAT

envisat.esa.int

Envisat mission extension



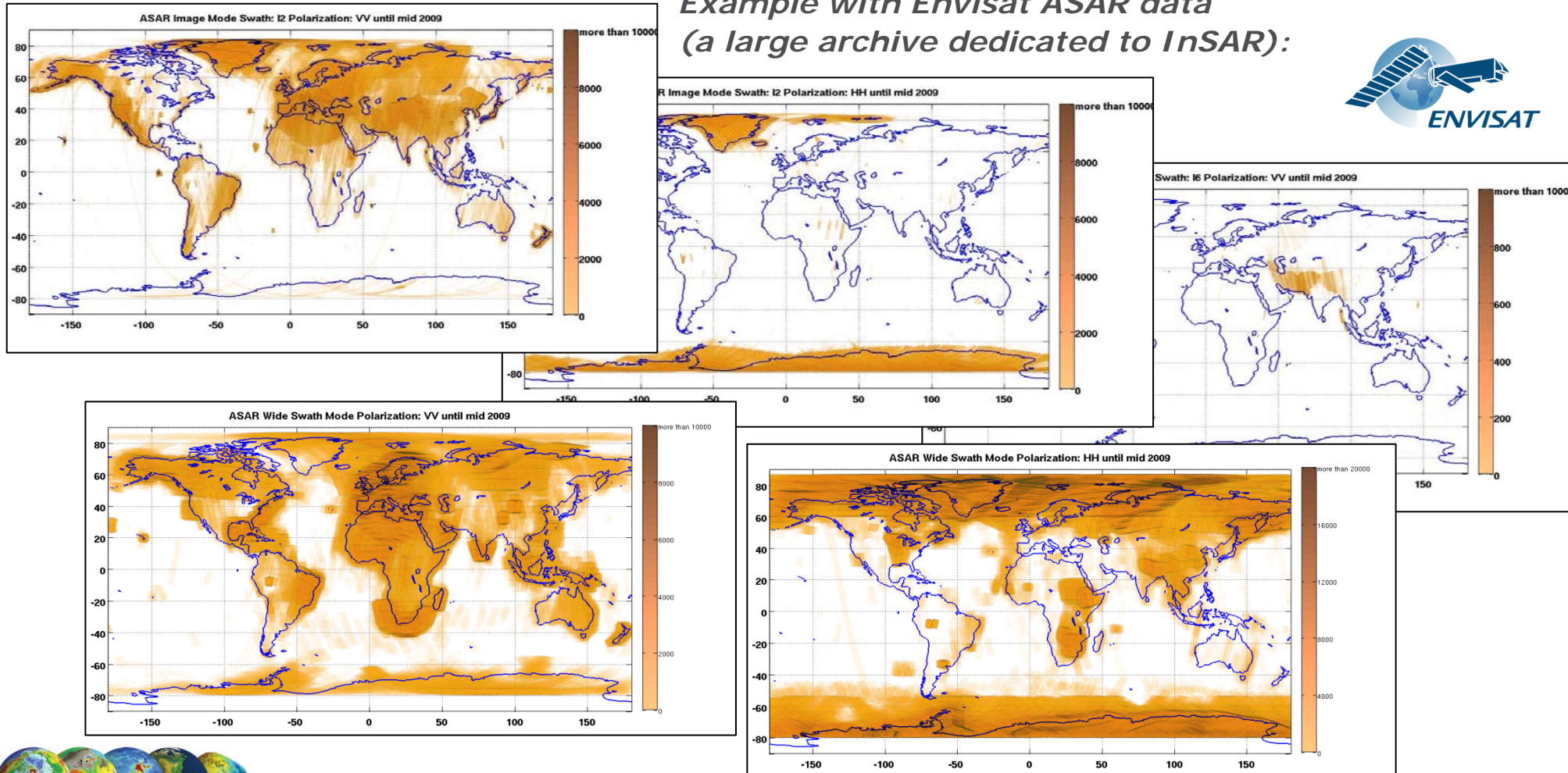
The new orbital parameters allow:

1. to keep current nominal mission until 2010,
2. to extend the mission beyond 2010,
3. to allow operations of all instruments with small or no degradation of their measurements, and minor impact on data quality, excepted for InSAR
4. to commit with the satellite disposal rules.

INCREASED AMOUNT of ACQUIRED DATA

Background missions use the extra capacity of sensor and ground segment acquisition. It has allowed acquiring useful data, e.g. SAR Interferometry (InSAR) data.

*Example with Envisat ASAR data
(a large archive dedicated to InSAR):*

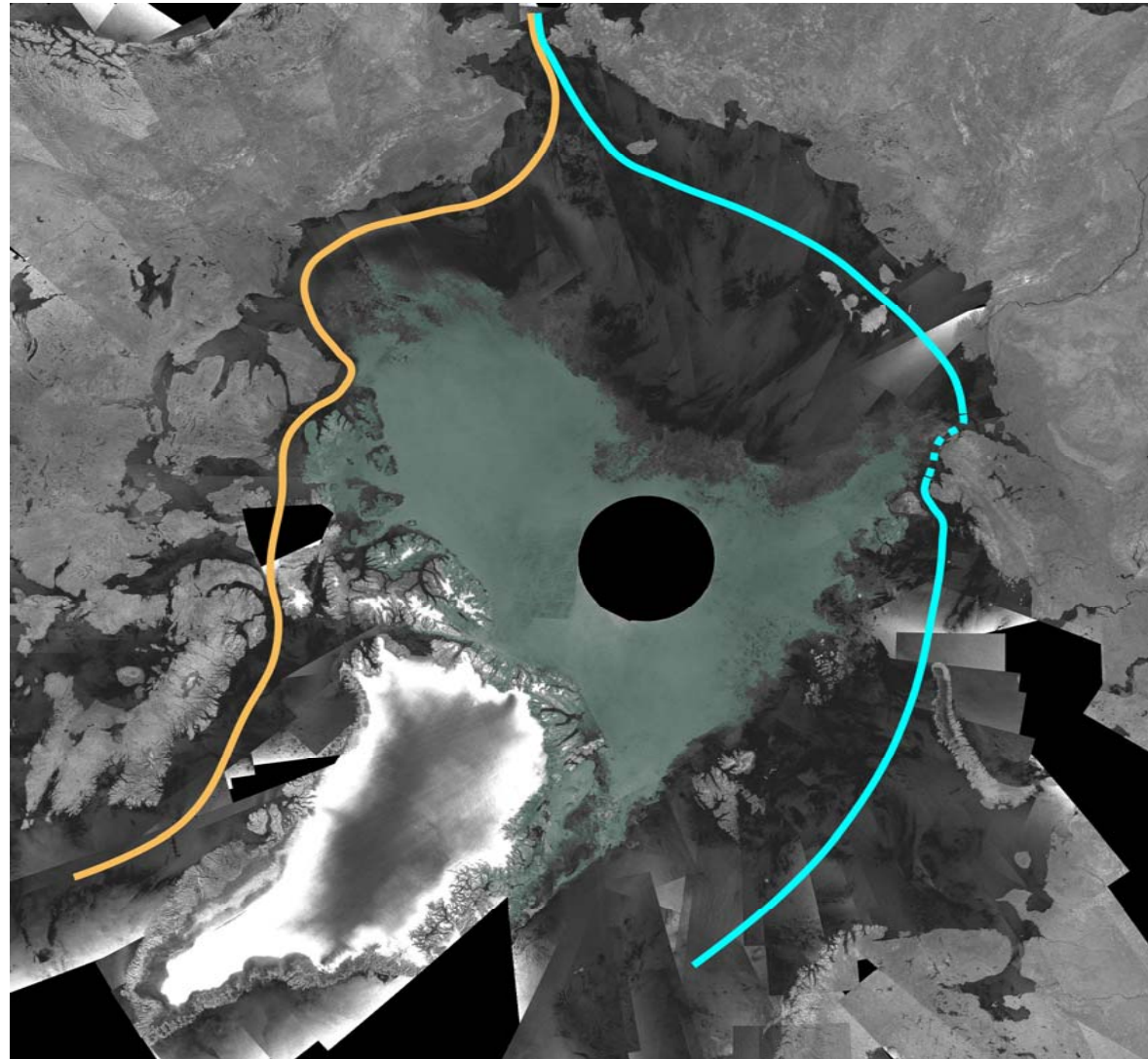


LOWEST ARCTIC ICE COVERAGE IN HISTORY



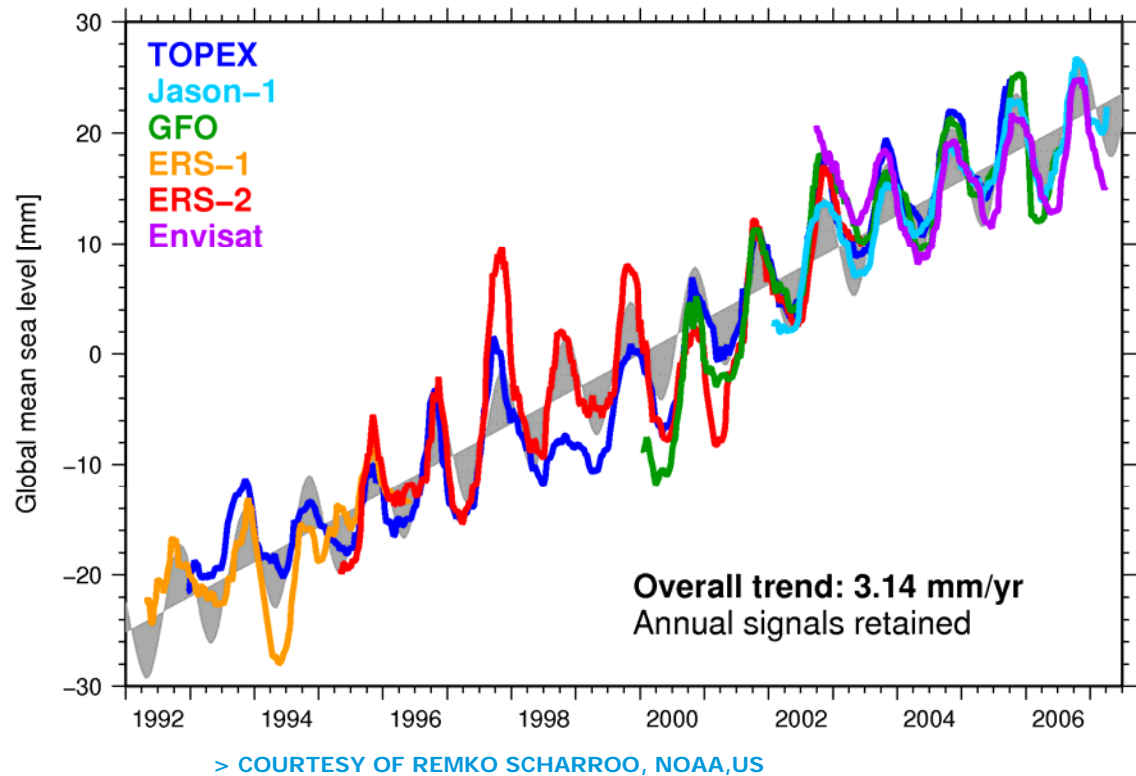
Arctic sea ice extent

- Northwest Passage open (orange line) and Northeast passage only partially blocked (blue line).
- the record reduction in 2007 stunned the international operational ice charting community

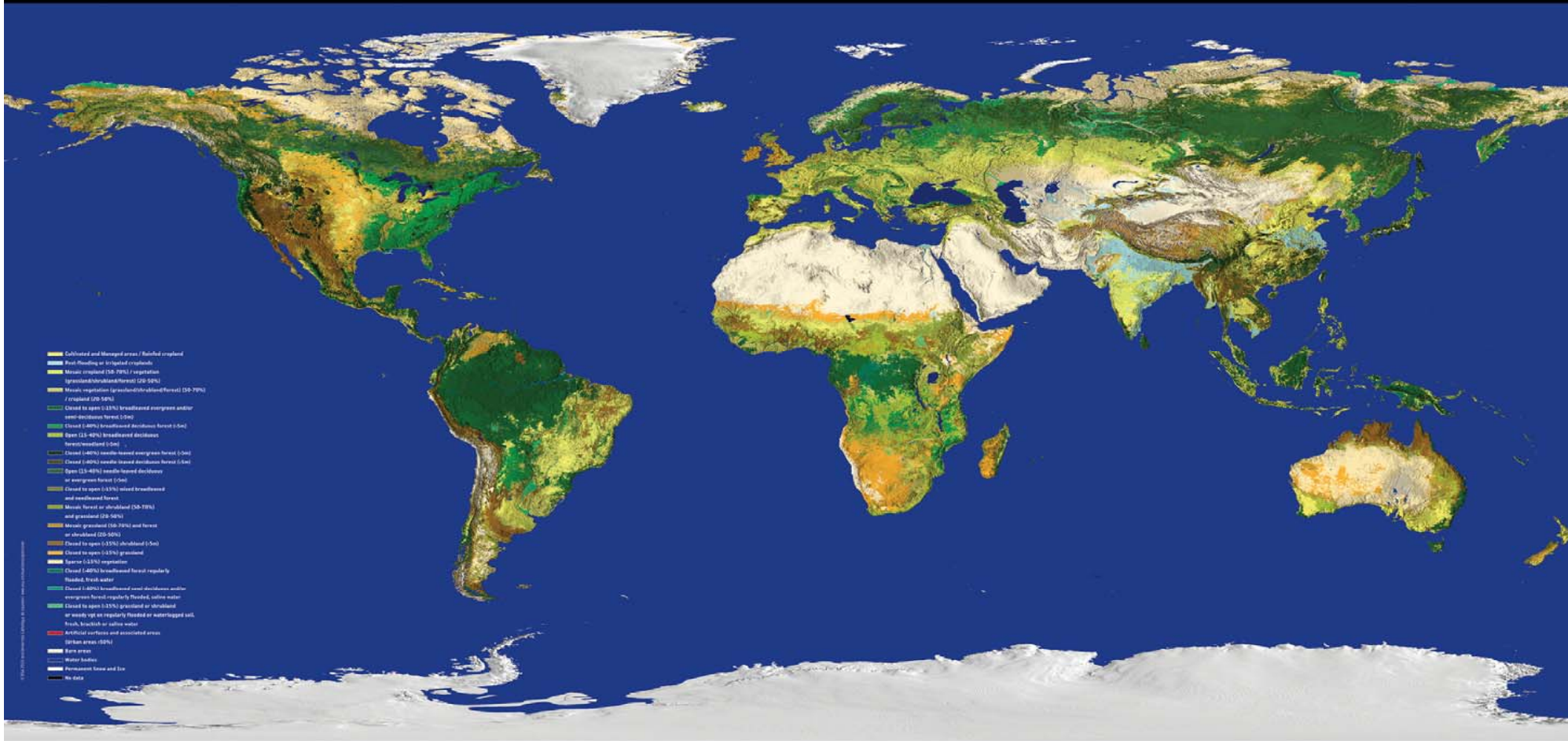


THE ENVISAT ALTIMETER PROVIDES CONTINUITY TO THE MEASUREMENTS INITIATED IN THE EARLY 1990

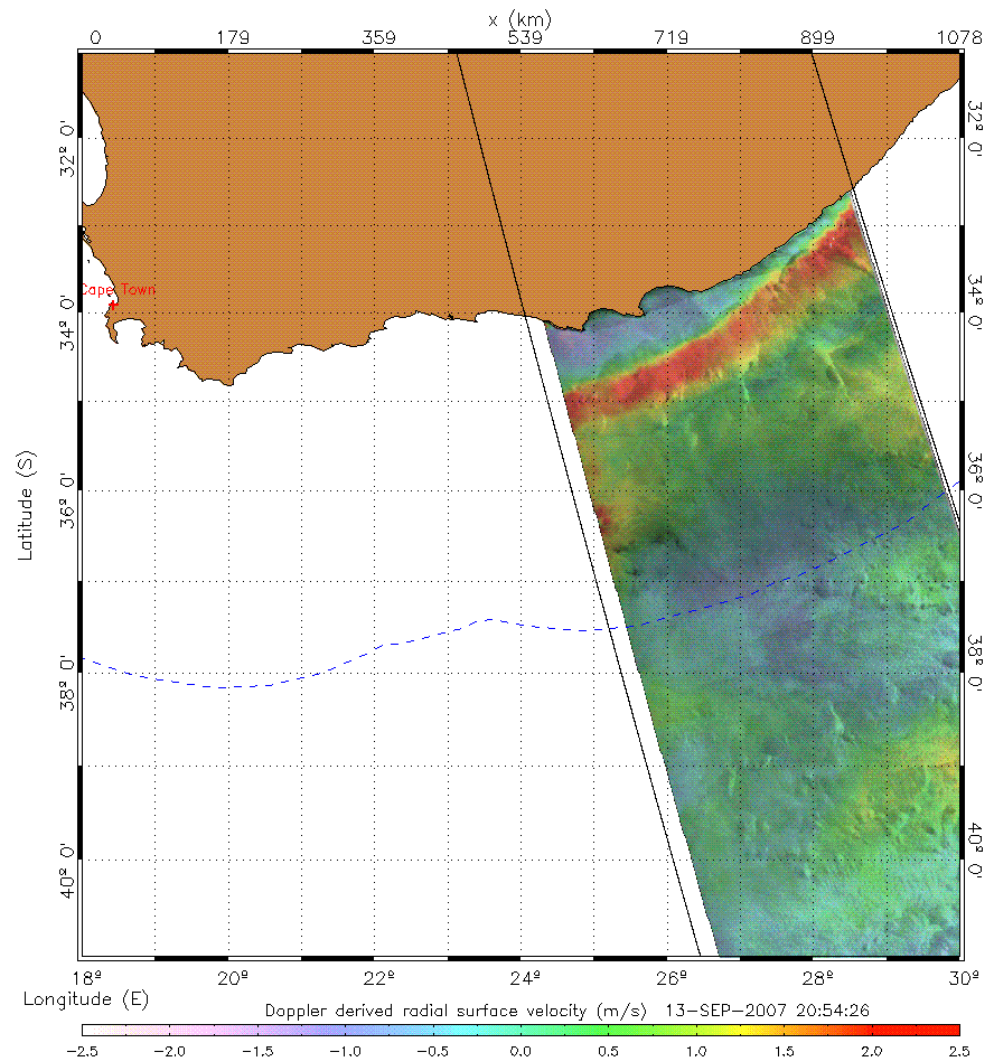
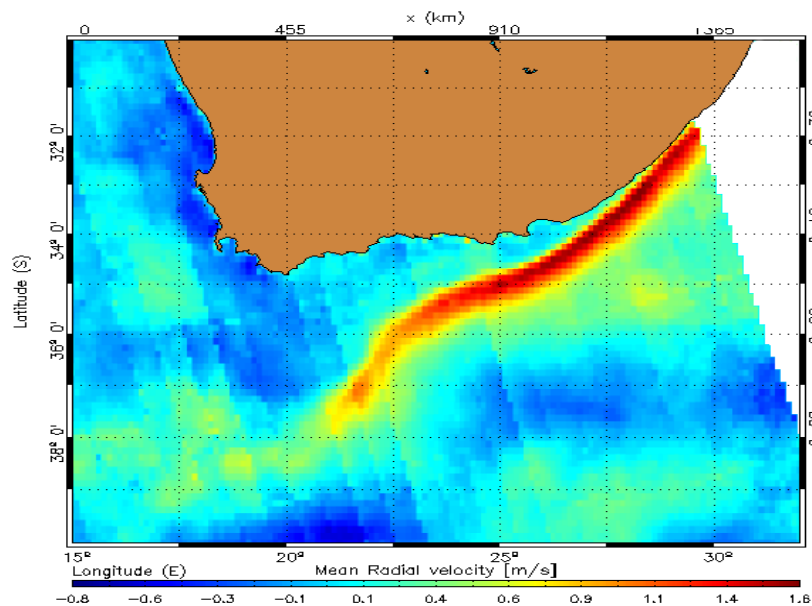
Sea level rise
Trend: +3.1 mm/yr



GLOBCOVER: NEW PORTRAIT OF EARTH SHOWS LAND COVER AS NEVER BEFORE



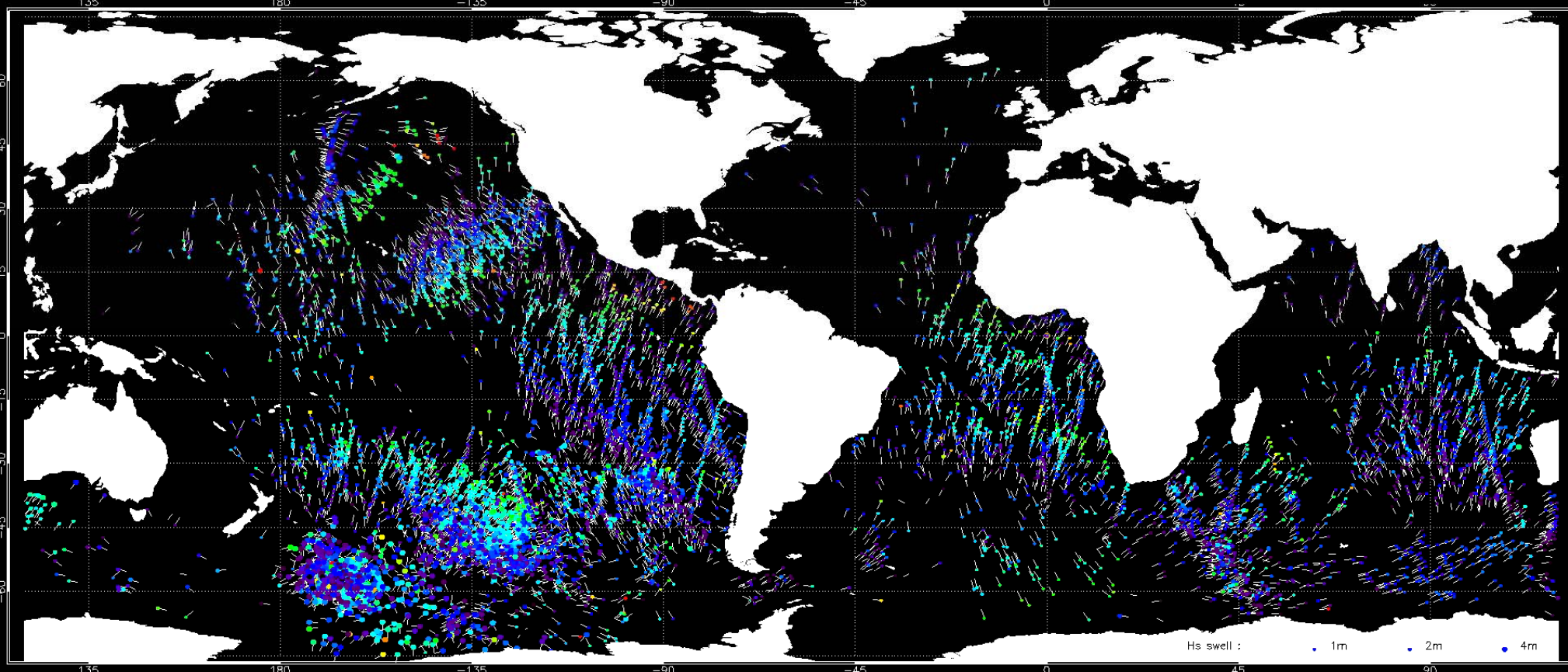
- Direct measurements of upstream surface flow of the Greater Agulhas Current as obtained from ASAR Wide Swath Mode on 13, 16, 19 and 22 September 2007. The radial surface velocity is marked in the colour bar in metres per second. See http://www.esa.int/esaEO/SEMZRQEMKBF_index_1.html
- Credits: ESA - BOOST Technologies



SWELL PROPAGATION



12-MAR-2011 12:00 UTC



Hs swell : 1m 2m 4m



NRT ASAR data Copyright ESA



backstory

Revealing ruptures

Zheng-Kang Shen and colleagues discovered an unusual cure for car-sickness while trying to understand the mechanics of fault deformation during the Wenchuan earthquake.

■ What was the objective of the work?
We wanted to understand the mechanics of the fault rupture of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake in China, which killed more than 80,000 people. The earthquake took place along the Longmen Shan fault. The rupturing of this fault reflects ongoing tectonic stress build-up that results from the eastward movement of the Tibetan plateau thrusting over the relatively stable Sichuan basin. We hoped that by measuring crustal deformation during and after the Wenchuan earthquake, we could better understand the geometry and extent of the fault rupture, as well as the mechanism of the earthquake and its associated tectonic processes.

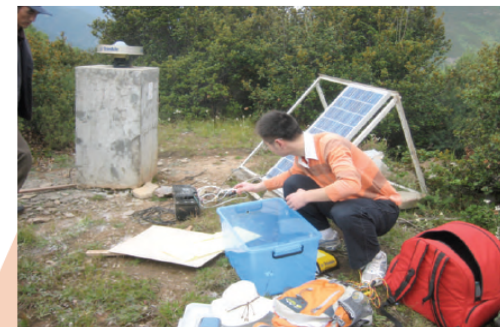
■ Why did you choose this particular location for the fieldwork?
The earthquake chose the location for us, providing an exceptionally rare opportunity for study. Scientifically, few (if any) Earth scientists anticipated an event of this magnitude in this locality, even though the steep western margin of the Sichuan basin is known to be seismically active.

■ What sorts of data were you after?
We collected GPS data, together with radar data obtained from satellites. We used this data to measure crustal deformation resulting from the earthquake, and to determine fault geometry and slip distribution during the earthquake.

■ Did you encounter any difficulties?
We encountered most of our difficulties during the early phase of our fieldwork, which was carried out immediately after the quake. We came across roads that had been buried by landslides, collapsed bridges, vehicles hit by fallen rocks and a traffic accident in a congested road lined up with disaster-relief trucks.



The living conditions were poor, with a lack of adequate food and water supplies at some camping grounds, and no power supply. Several of us suffered



A crew member setting up GPS survey instruments at a mountain-top site after an hour-long hike. He is being watched by a local villager who helped carry survey equipment to the site.

from altitude sickness while climbing mountains to survey sites. And there was the psychological trauma of seeing so much destruction.

■ Did you have any encounters with dangerous animals?
One of our team members was stung by a hornet when working at a survey site. He had to run down a half-hour-long trail before being rushed to hospital.

■ Any low points?
On many occasions we were shocked by the scale of the devastation that the quake had caused. Among all the emotional lows, the one that stood out the most was when we had just finished a day of work and sought lodging assistance at a local government office. A lady in her thirties quietly arranged tents and meals for us. Afterwards, she asked, with a gentle and quiet voice: "Didn't you know such a big one was coming?" We learnt later on that she had lost her husband in the earthquake.

■ What was the highlight of the expedition?
Having overcome all sorts of difficulties and hazards, we were elated when — two weeks after the quake — we had our instruments up and running at the first field site.

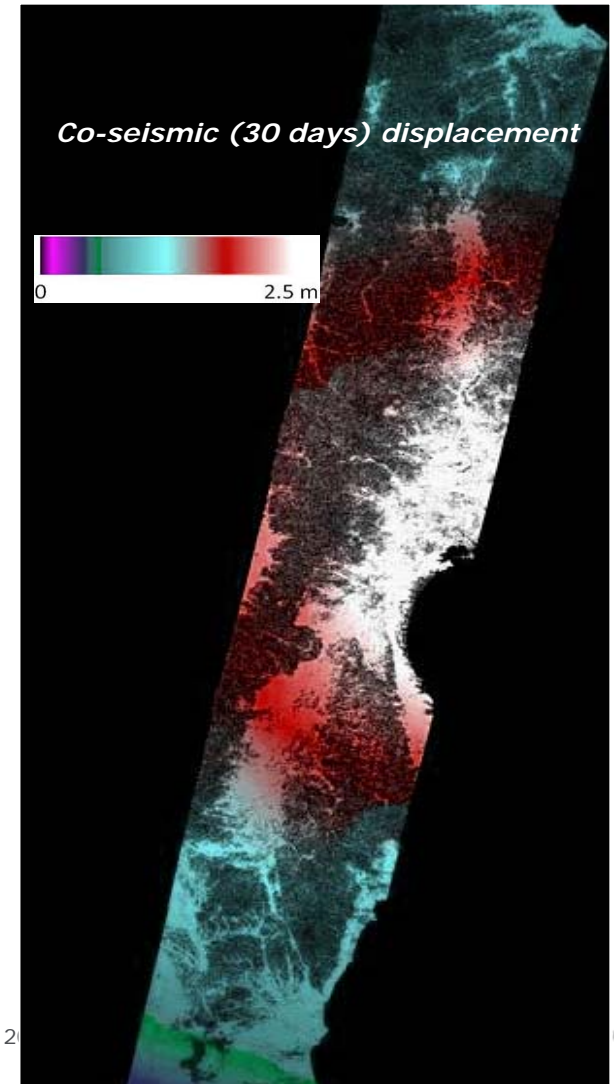
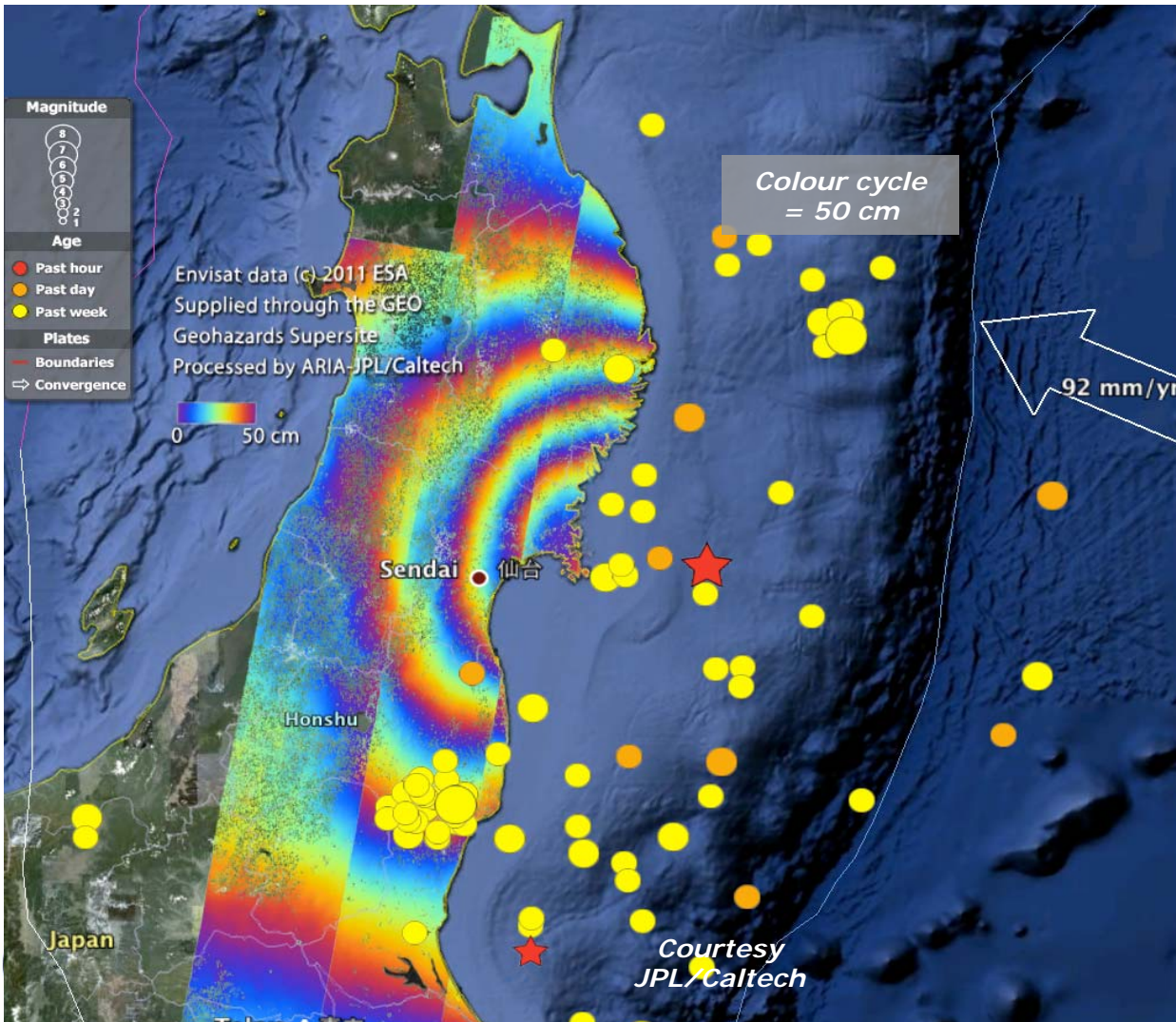
■ Did you learn anything new about yourself or your team members?
One of our crew members got car-sick while sitting in the back seat of a four-wheel-drive Toyota Land Cruiser, following a long drive along a treacherous rural road. With no other cure available, we put him in the front seat of a small and shaky pickup truck, with tiny wheels and thin body parts. Bumping up and down, he sat in the car for the next several days, and never got car-sick again. We learnt that expensive and comfortable vehicles can still offer great discomfort, and that cheap uncomfortable vehicles are sometimes the best cure.

This is the Backstory to the work by Zheng-Kang Shen and colleagues, published on page 718 of this issue.

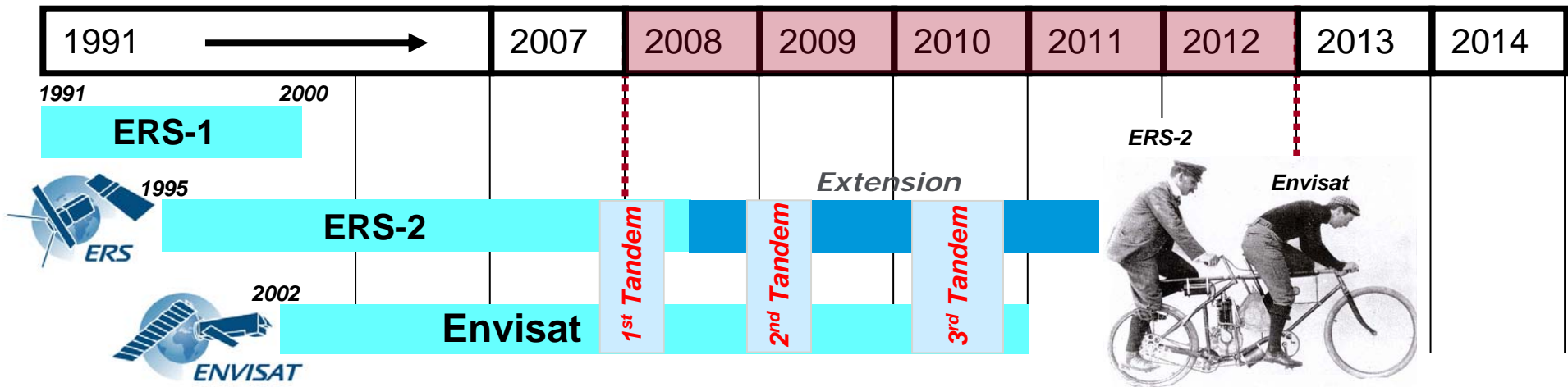
10 public media reported the work after Publication, BBC, ABC, CNN, Xinhua etc.

Japan earthquake (March 2011)

Thanks to the background data acquisitions (several pre-seismic acquisitions in February 2011), it is possible to generate an Envisat ASAR interferogram (combining with several post-seismic acquisitions in March 2011) which provides a detailed estimation of the terrain movement on a very large scale.



ENVISAT ERS-2 Tandem Mission



The EOEP-3 proposal included the provision for operating ERS-2 until mid-2008.

However the ERS-2 mission lifetime was **extended by 3 years** in 2008 thanks to:

- the flexibility of the Envelope Programme
- the overall satisfactory status of the satellite
- the scientific demand (in particular InSAR) as well as demand for operational applications

Amongst the benefits of the ERS-2 mission extension:

→ Three **ERS-2 / Envisat SAR tandem campaigns**, exploiting the synergy between the 2 missions (30 min. time interval on the same orbit) until Envisat orbital change at end 2010.

After 16 years of operations, ERS-2 mission will complete its prolonged mandate at mid-2011 and will be de-orbited.



Mohave (USA)

ERS-2 / Envisat Tandem

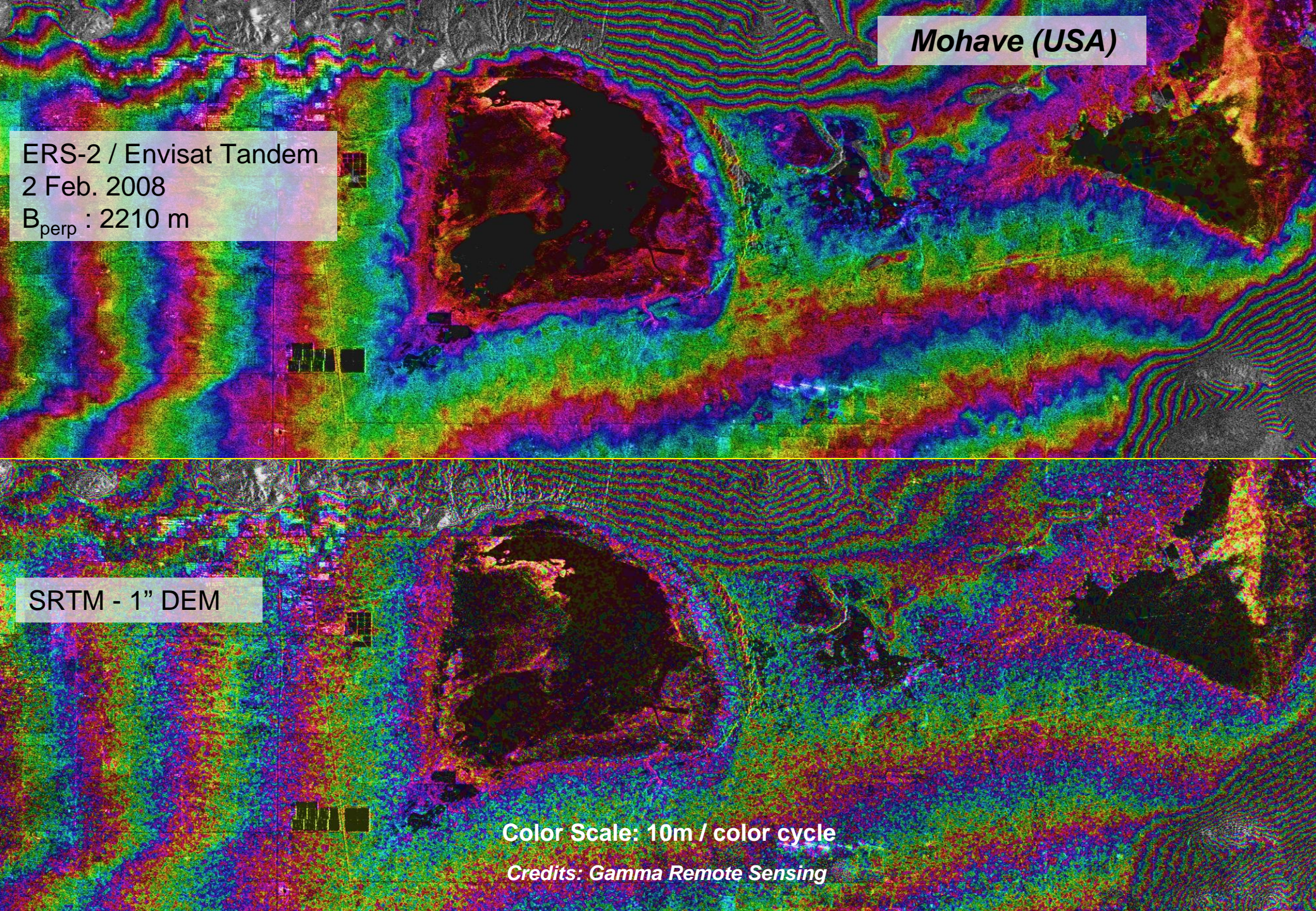
2 Feb. 2008

B_{perp} : 2210 m

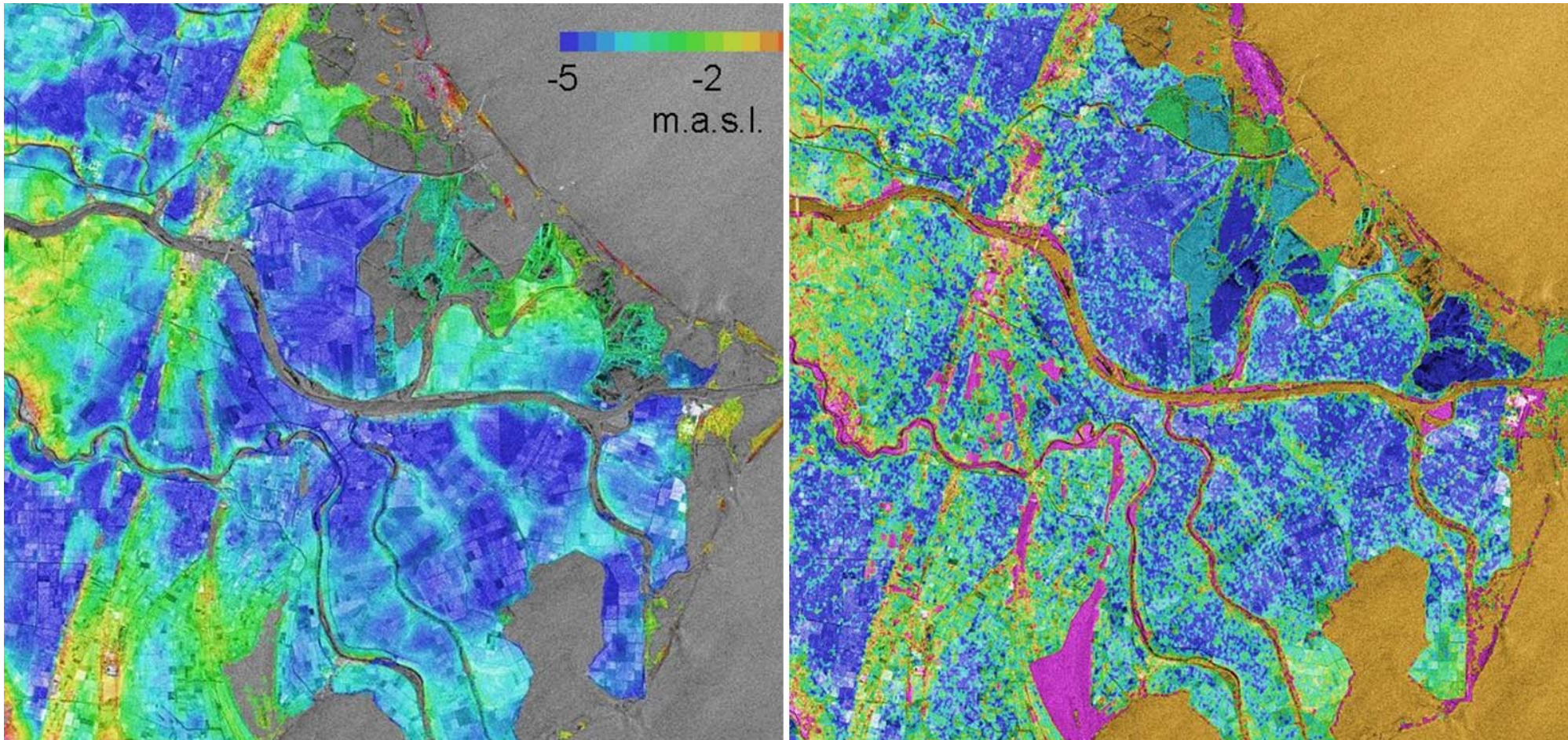
SRTM - 1" DEM

Color Scale: 10m / color cycle

Credits: Gamma Remote Sensing



ENVISAT-ERS Tandem DEM



- Comparison of Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) for a 50km x 35km area of the Po river delta, Italy.
- The DEM shown in the left image was derived from highly accurate interferometric data gathered during tandem observations by ESA's ERS-2 and Envisat (7 Nov 2007).
- The image to the right shows the interpolated Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) DEM heights over the same area using the identical very fine color scale.

Earth Explorers

GOCE – *the gravity mission*

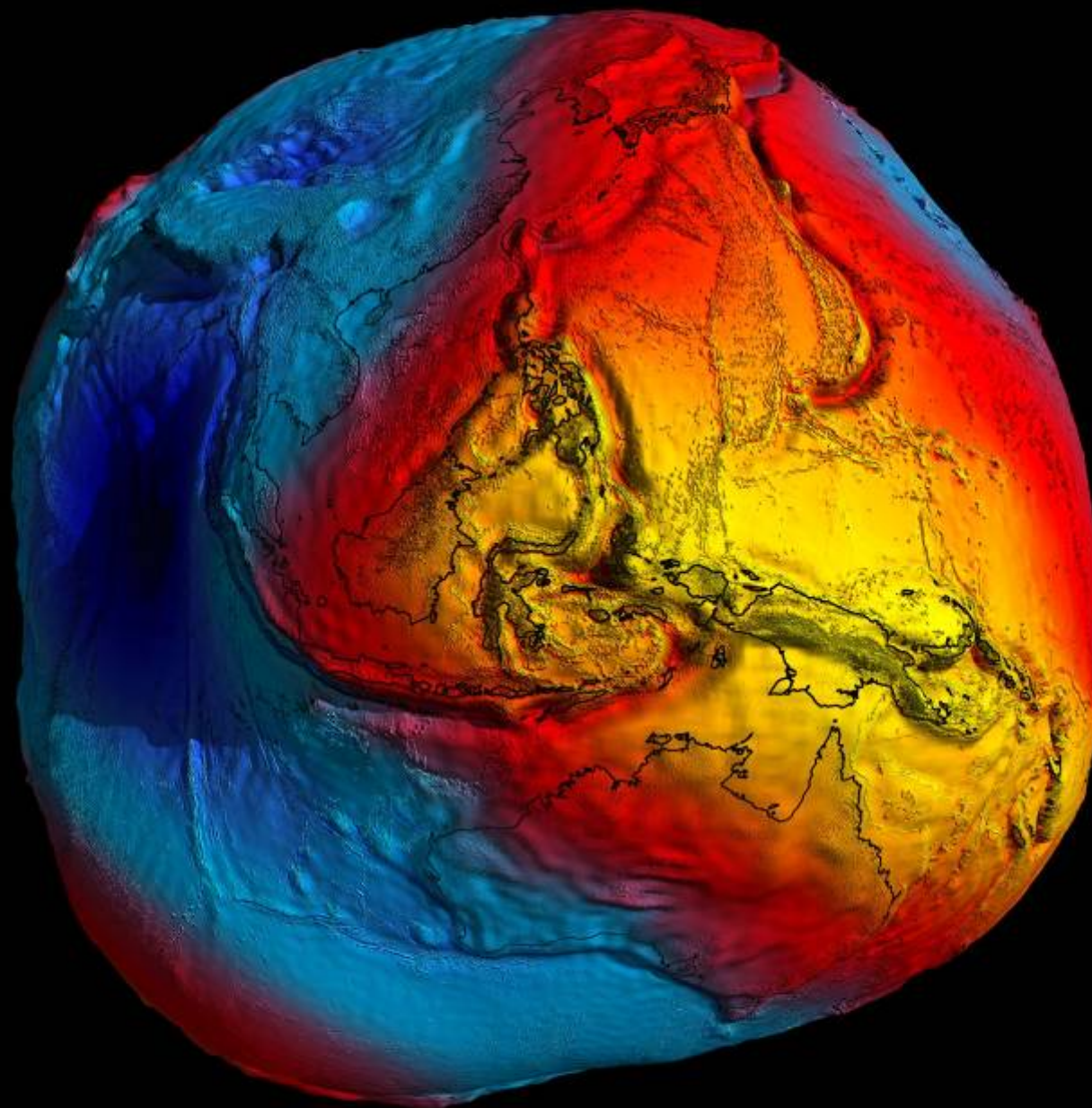


- **Launched in March 2009**
- **GOCE successfully finished its nominal mission in March 2011**

A unique mission:

- **First gradiometer in space**
- **Very low orbit (255 km)**
- **Active air drag control (ion engine)**
- **Perfectly quiet environment**

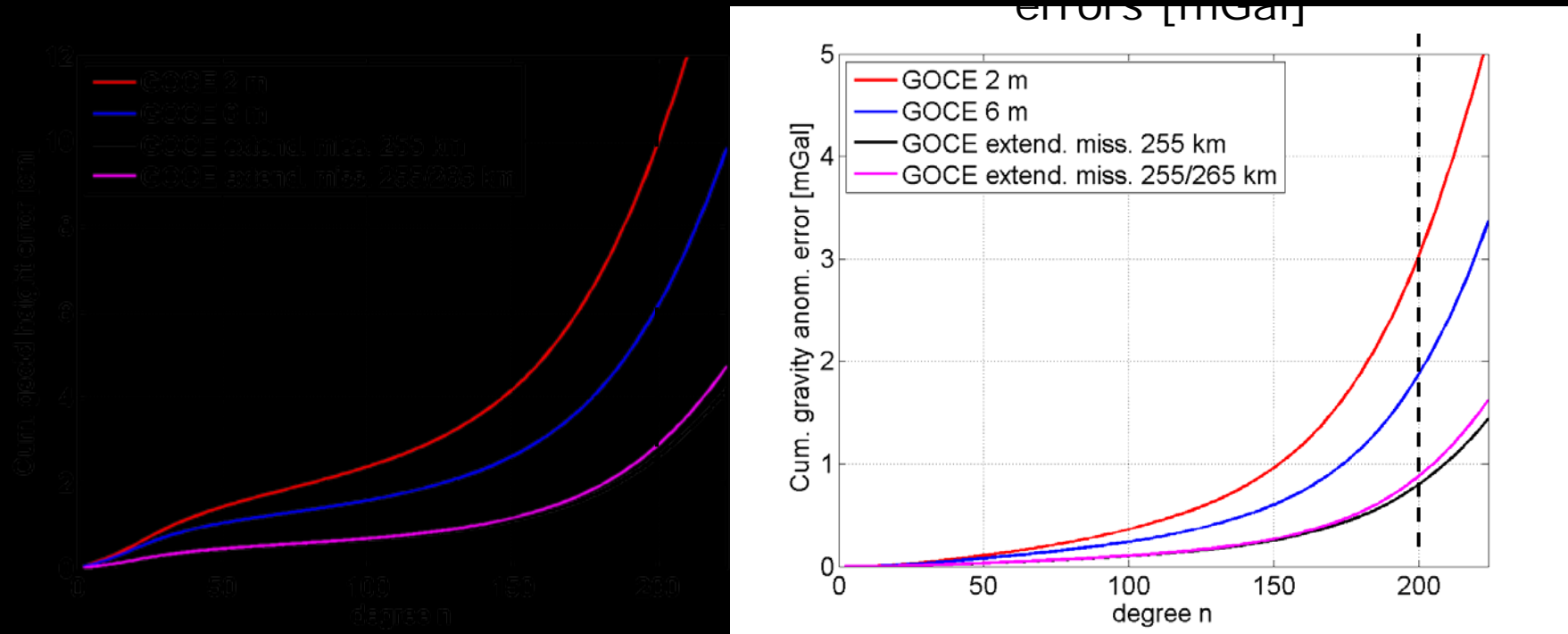




GOCE gravity field – newest geoid

- *Based on 3 cycles / 6 months of data*
- *Geoid based on full nominal mission data*

Full achievement of all mission objectives in extended mission with no aid from other data



→ Performance estimates for **GOCE stand-alone** solutions

→ Combination solutions make perfect sense; GRACE now also ESA TPM

→ Already now: 2 cm global geoid error at spatial resolution of ca. 150 km

SMOS – *The ESA water mission*



In space since 2 November 2009

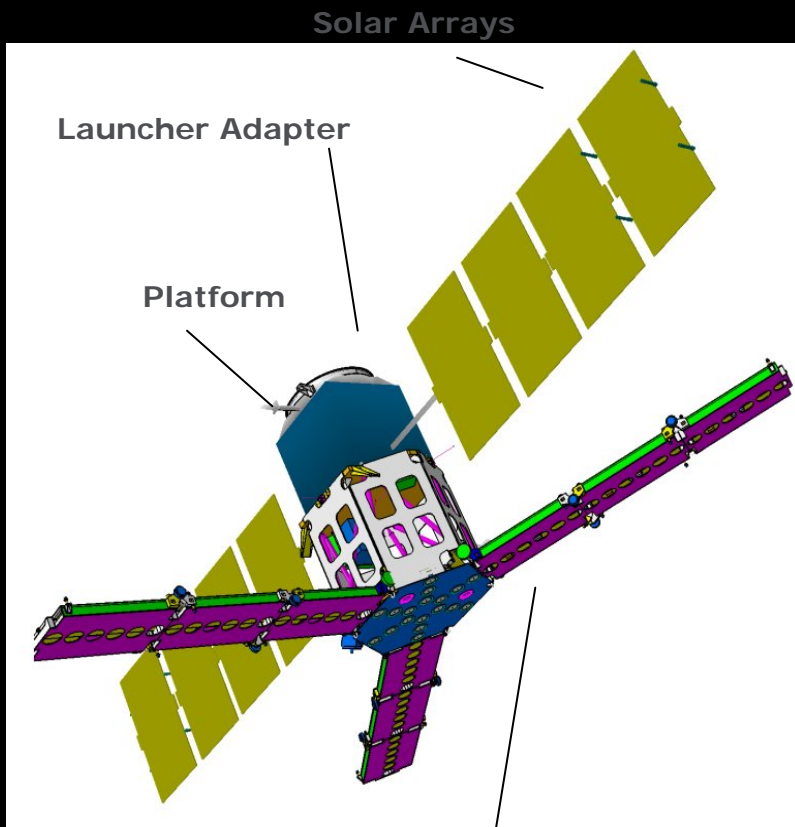
Applications:

First global observations of two key variables of the Earth's water cycle

- Improve *models* of global water cycle and global ocean currents
- Improved management of water resources

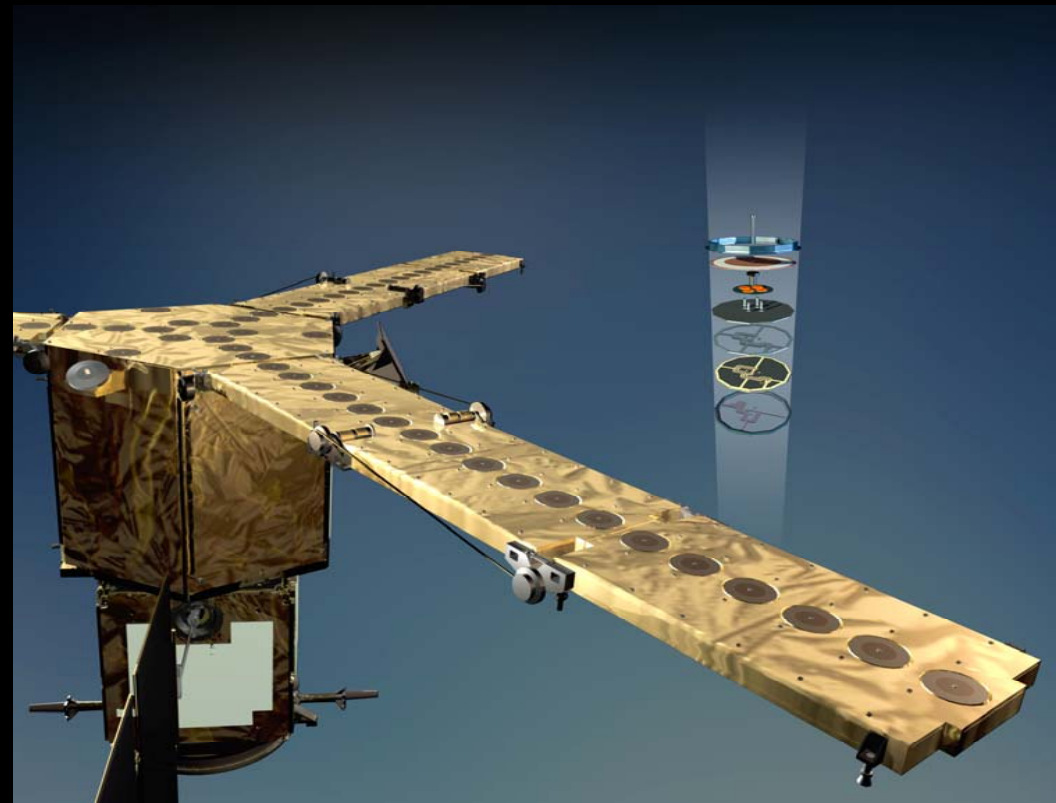


SMOS: RADIOMETRY WITH APERTURE SYNTHESIS



Interferometric Radiometer Antenna Arms

microwave radiometer
at L band: 1.4 GHz
2D interferometry (from 72 receivers)
multi-incident angles (0° - 55°)
polarimetric observations



SMOS Global Soil Moisture Map

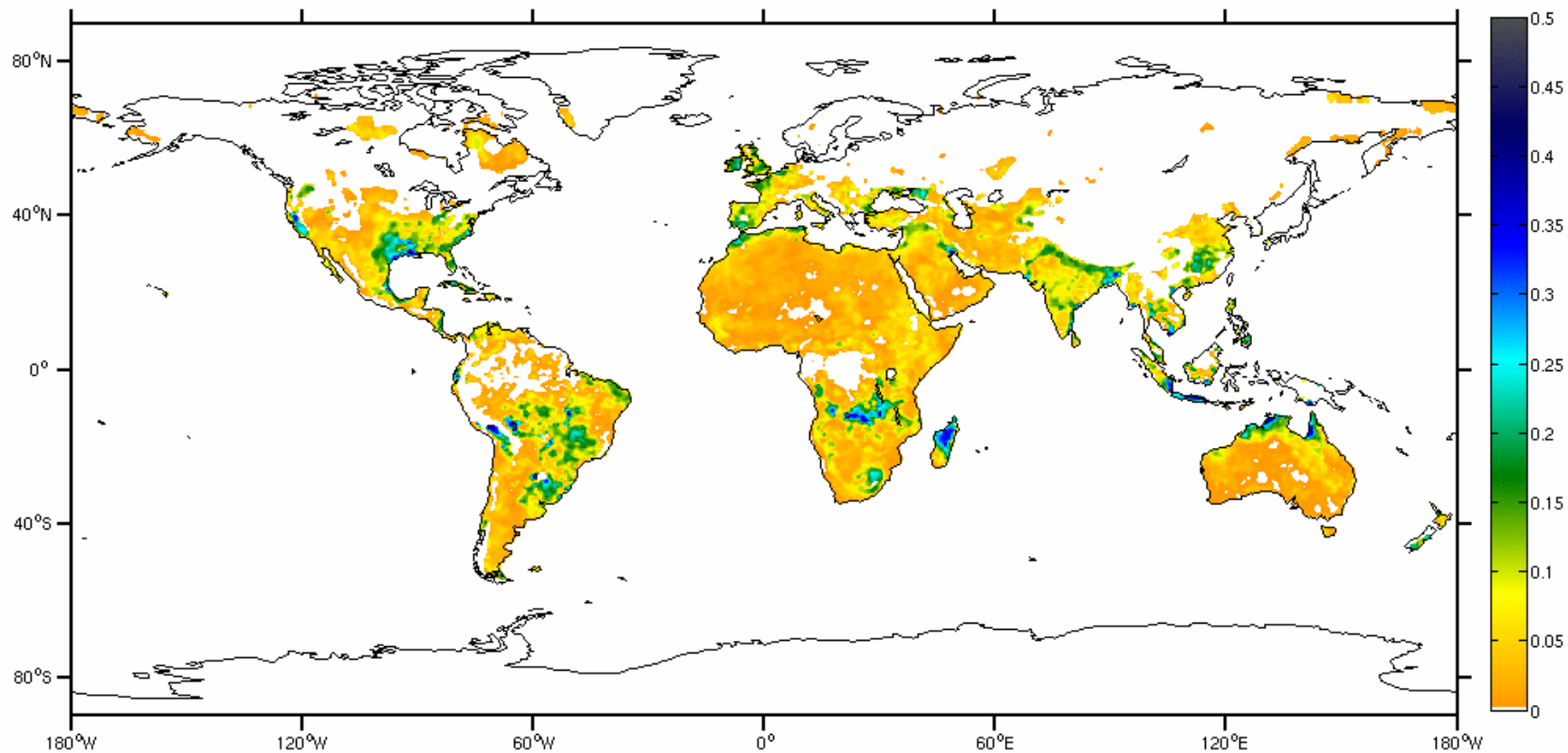
(Monthly mean year 2010)



Monthly Soil Moisture CATDS product ($\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$).



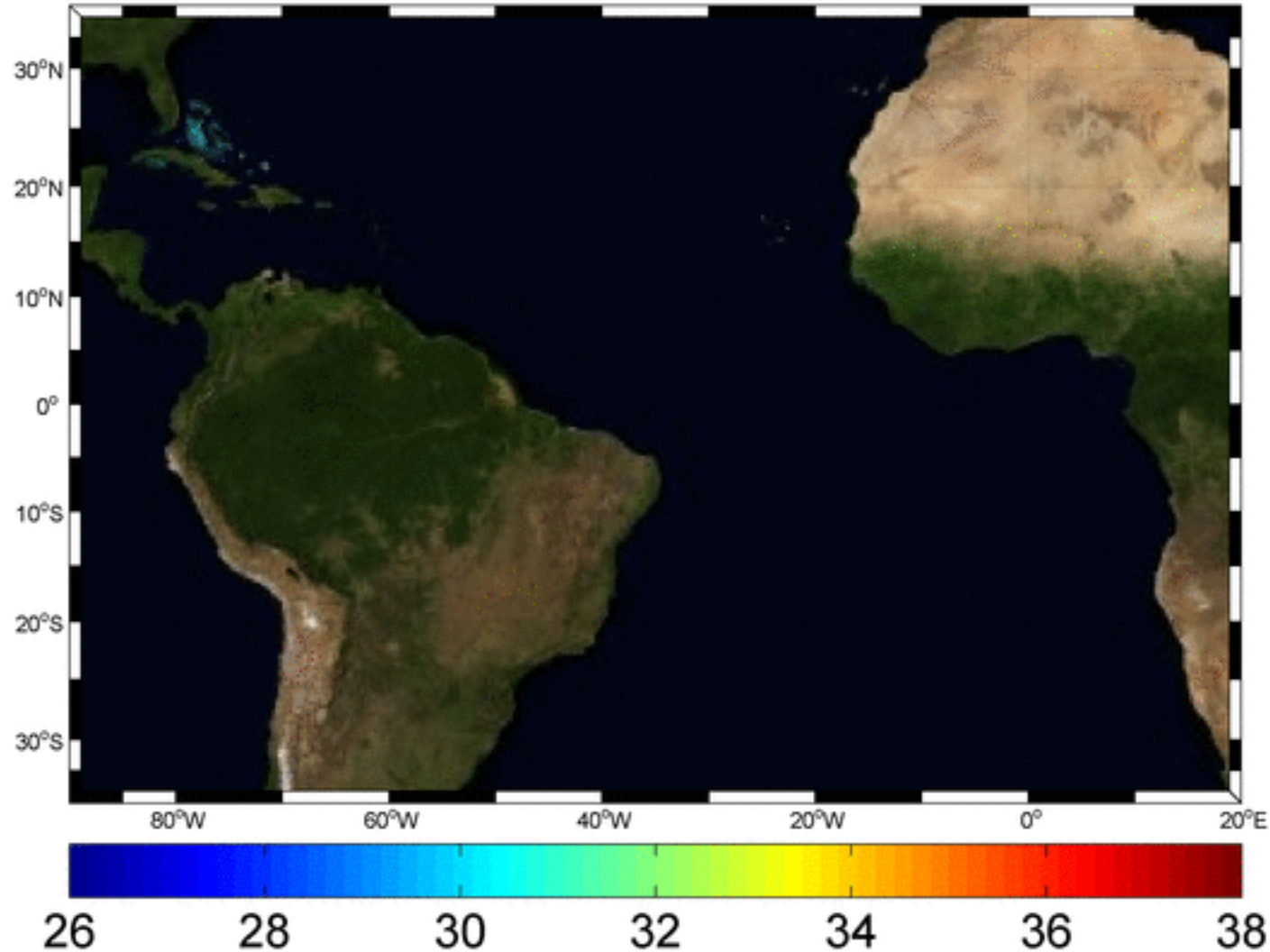
20100101-20100131. Ascending Orbits.



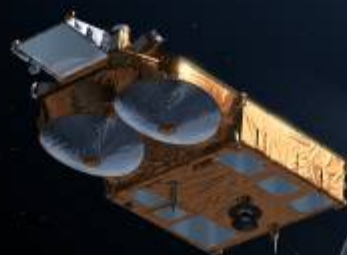
SMOS Ocean Salinity

SSS products evolution over the Tropical Atlantic region combining both ascending and descending passes from January to December 2010

SSS Averaged from Jan 01 through Jan 11

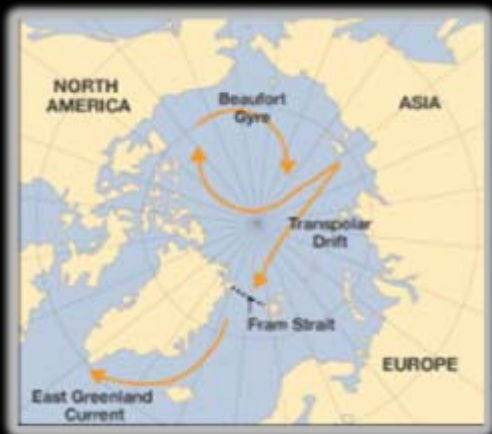


CryoSat-2 – *ESA's ice mission*



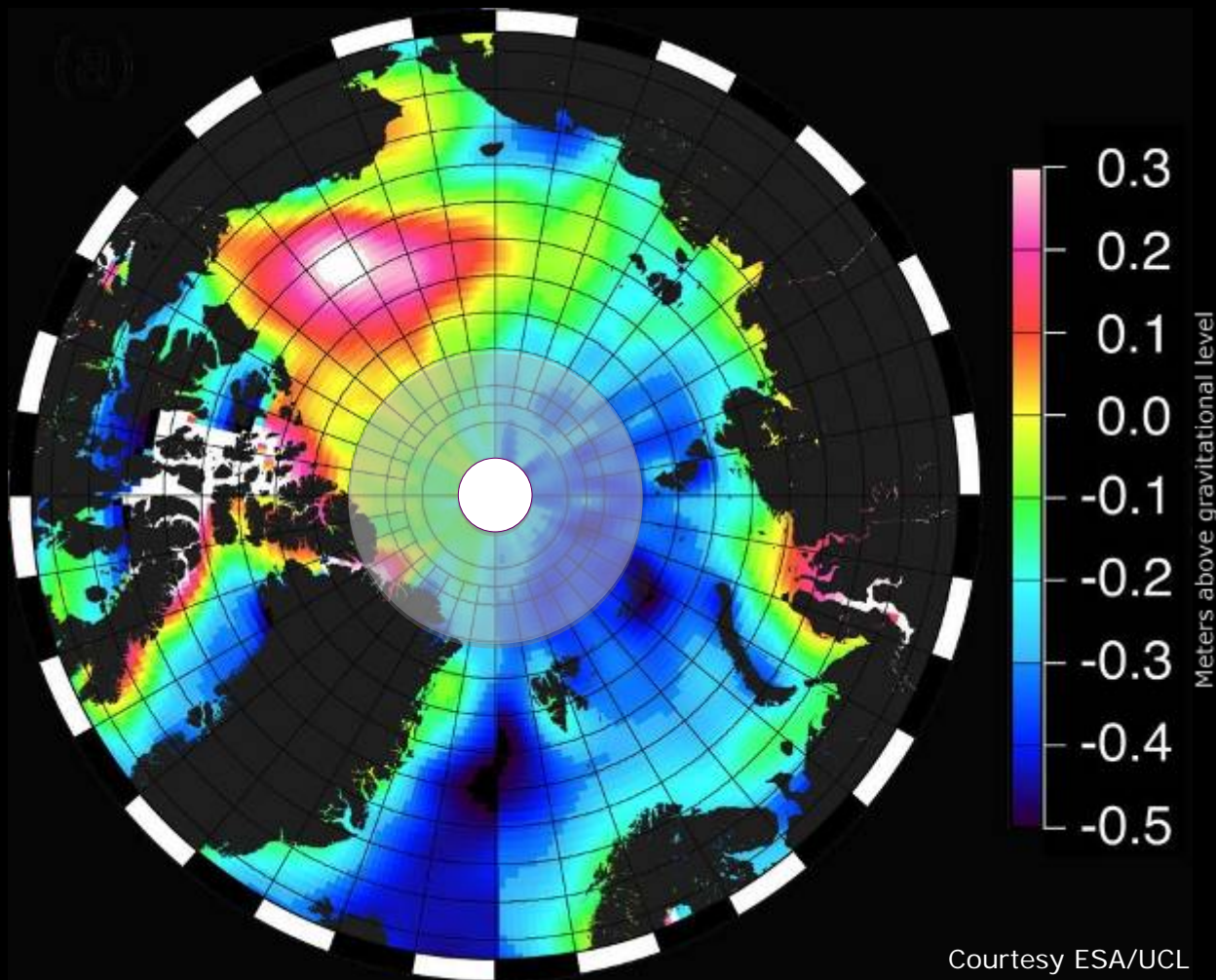
- monitoring precise changes in the thickness of the polar ice sheets and floating sea ice, reaching latitudes of 88°
- Launch **8 April 2010**

CryoSat returns first science



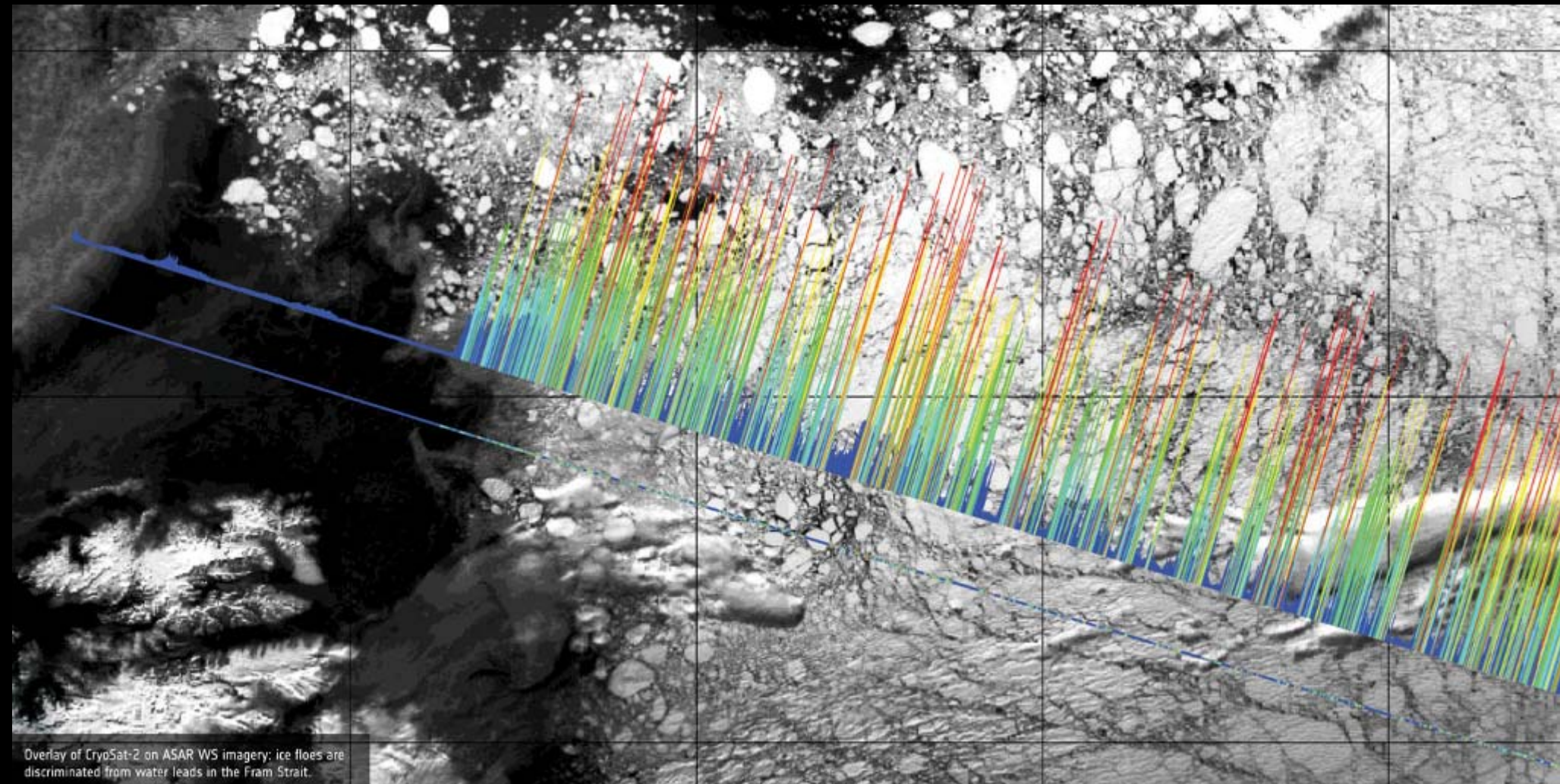
Revealed the first complete picture of ocean Dynamic Topography in the Arctic Ocean up to 88° latitude

Ocean up to 88° latitude topography in the Arctic



Courtesy ESA/UCL
European Space Agency

Preparing for sea-ice thickness measurements



Overlay of CryoSat-2 on ASAR WS imagery; ice floes are discriminated from water leads in the Fram Strait.

Ice floes 

Water Leads 

SWARM – ESA's magnetic field mission



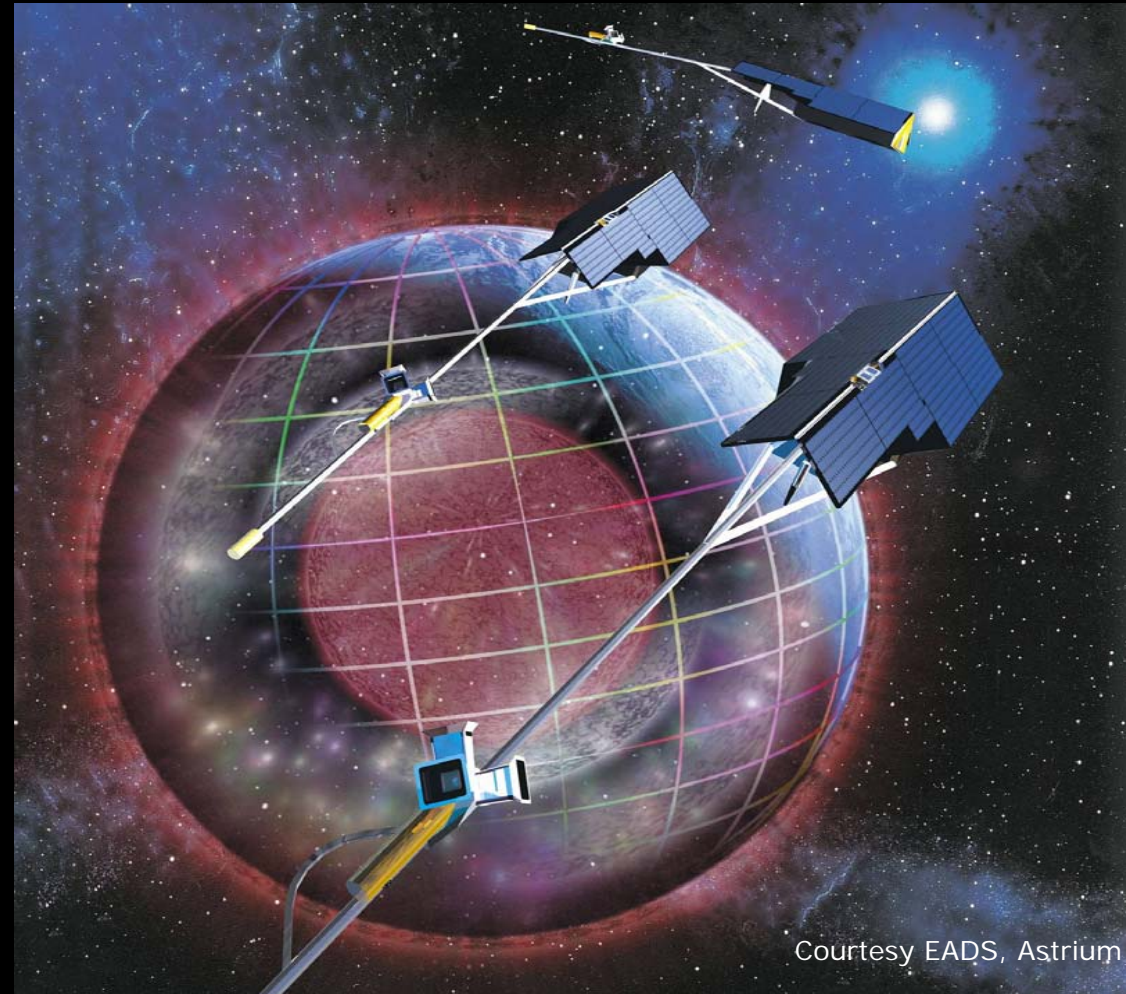
- to provide the best-ever **survey of the Earth's geomagnetic field** and its variation in time
- to gain new insight into the Earth's interior and climate.

Status:

Satellites manufacturing, components integration and testing ongoing

GS development progressing

Launch scheduled for July 2012



Courtesy EADS, Astrium

European Space Agency



- to provide global observations of wind profiles from space
- to improve the **quality of weather forecasts** and our understanding of **atmospheric & climate processes**

Status:

Implementation of the continuous mode of the ALADIN instrument ongoing

Satellite platform back in storage

Satellite acceptance review planned by mid 2013

- for a better understanding of the interactions between cloud, radiative and aerosol processes that play a role in climate regulation.

Status:

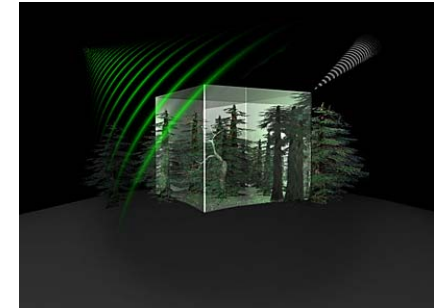
Preparation of Phase C/D

Launch in 2015-16



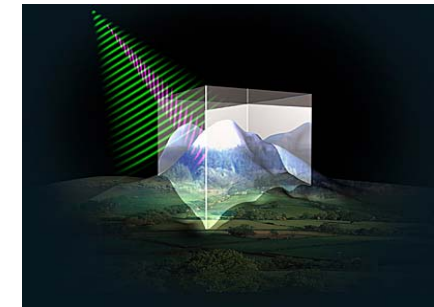
BIOMASS

A single satellite carrying a P-band SAR to provide continuous global interferometric and polarimetric radar observations of forested areas



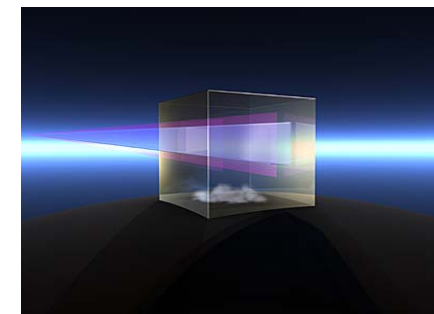
CoReH2O

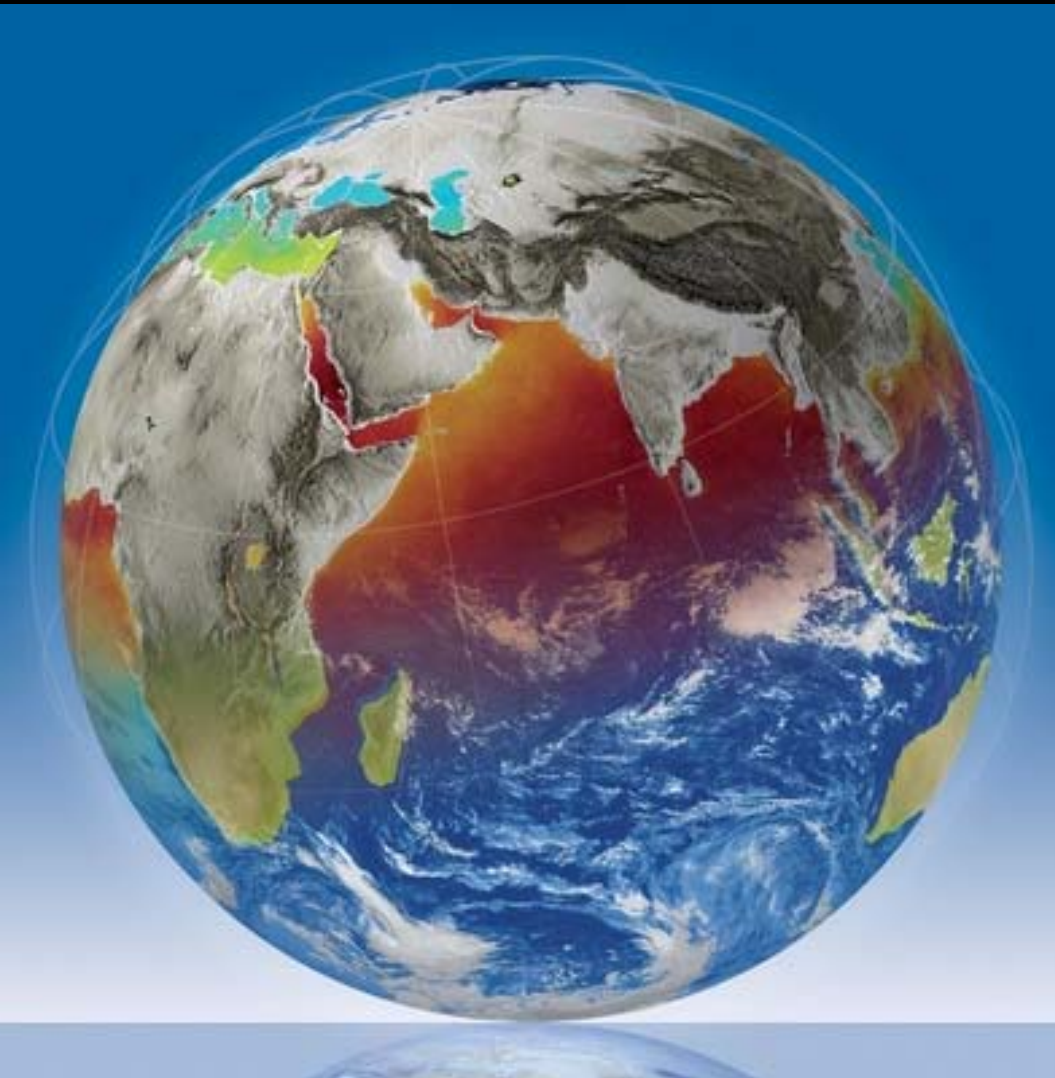
single satellite with dual frequency (X, Ku), dual-polarisation SAR to observe snow / ice at high spatial resolution



PREMIER

3D fields of atmospheric composition in upper troposphere and lower stratosphere. The instrumentation will consist of an infrared limb-imaging spectrometer and a mm-wave limb-sounder



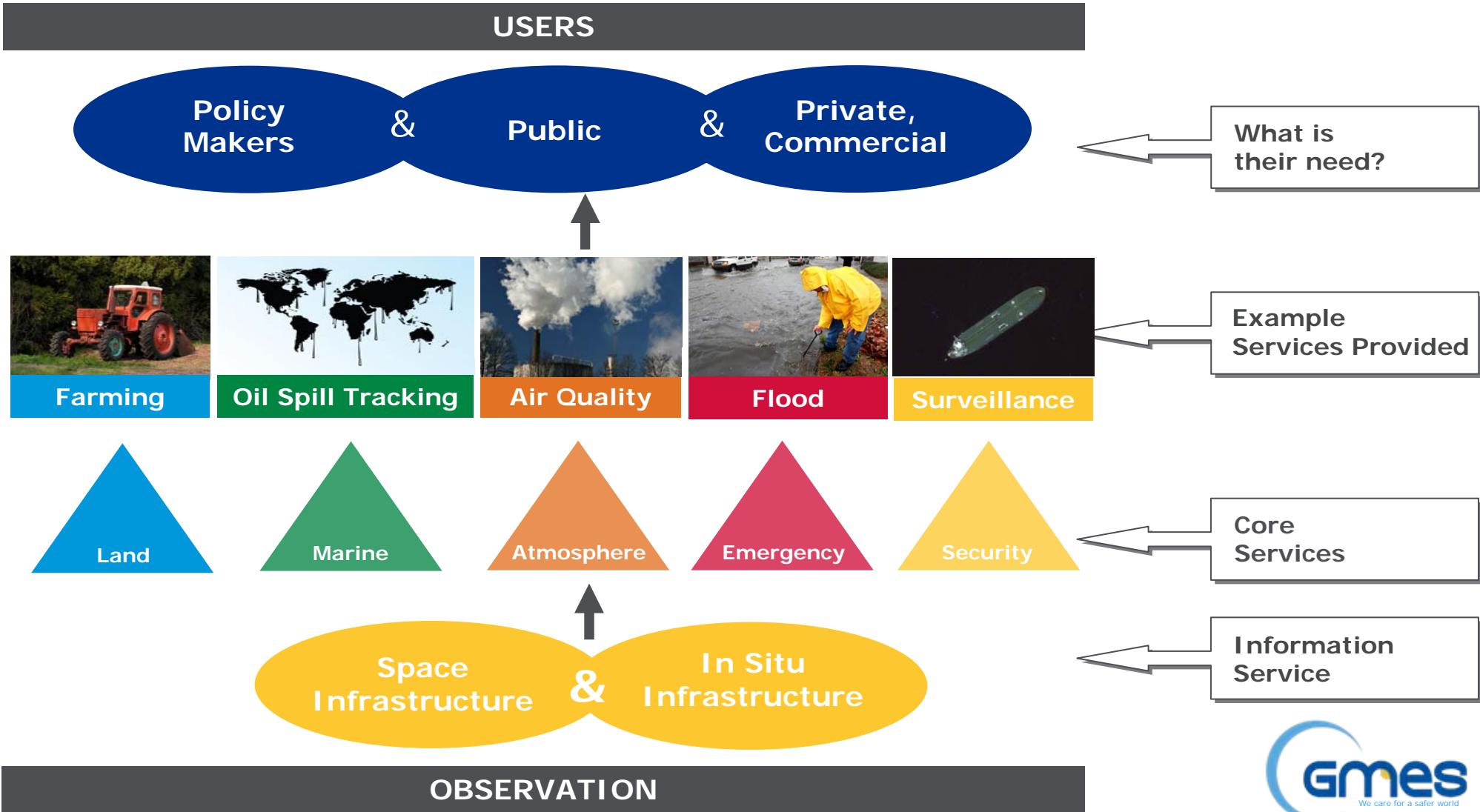


- **FLEX:** to provide global maps of vegetation fluorescence, which can be converted into an indicator of photosynthetic activity -> to improve our understanding of how much carbon is stored in plants and their role in the carbon and water cycles
- **CarbonSat:** to quantify and monitor the distribution of carbon dioxide and methane -> for a better understanding of the sources and sinks of these two gases and how they are linked to climate change.

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security

European **independence** in data sources
for environment and security monitoring
and
The European **contribution** to the Global
Earth Observation System of Systems
(GEOSS)

GMES Overall View



USERS

Policy Makers

&

Public

&

Private, Commercial

What is their need?



Farming



Oil Spill Tracking



Air Quality

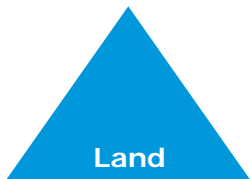


Flood

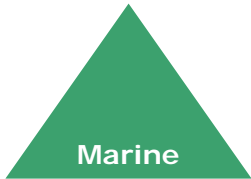


Surveillance

Example Services Provided



Land



Marine



Atmosphere



Emergency



Security

Core Services



Space Infrastructure

&

In Situ Infrastructure

Information Service

OBSERVATION

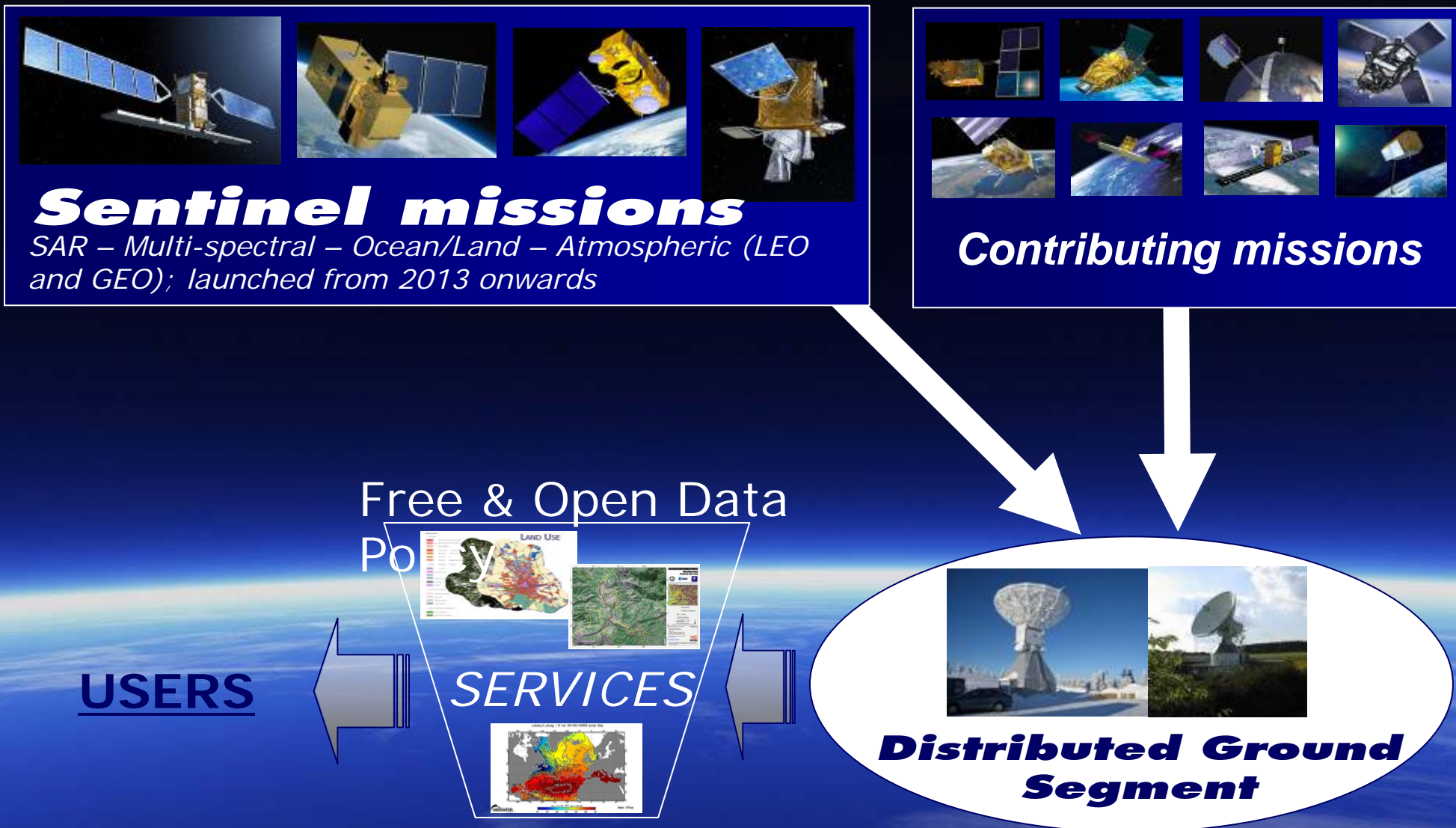


ESA's role in GMES



- **Coordinator** of the overall GMES Space Component
- **Development and procurement Agency** for dedicated space infrastructure
- **Ad-interim operator** of Sentinel 1, -2 and Sentinel-3 (land) missions





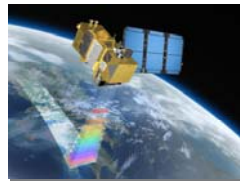
GMES dedicated missions: Sentinels



Sentinel 1 – SAR imaging

All weather, day/night applications, interferometry

2013 / 2015



Sentinel 2 – Multi-spectral imaging

Land applications: urban, forest, agriculture,..
Continuity of Landsat, SPOT

2013 / 2016



Sentinel 3 – Ocean and global land monitoring

Wide-swath ocean color, vegetation, sea/land
surface temperature, altimetry

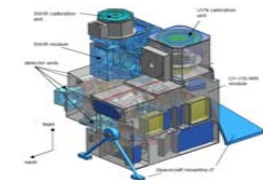
2013 / 2017



Sentinel 4 – Geostationary atmospheric

Atmospheric composition monitoring, trans-
boundary pollution

2019



Sentinel 5 – Low-orbit atmospheric

Atmospheric composition monitoring
(S5 Precursor launch in 2014)

2020+



FREE and OPEN

Anybody can access Sentinel data; no difference is made between public, commercial and scientific use

→ open access

Sentinel data will be made available to the users via a 'generic' online access mode

→ free of charge



SENTINEL-1



Sentinel-1 Mission Highlights



C-band SAR Mission



Launch : May 2013

Applications:

- monitoring sea ice zones and the arctic environment
- surveillance of marine environment
- monitoring land surface motion risks
- mapping in support of humanitarian aid in crisis situations

4 nominal operation modes:

High Bit Rate Modes

- strip map (80 km swath, 5X5 m res.)
- interferometric wide swath (250 km swath, 20X5 m res.)
- extra wide swath (400 km swath, 25X100 m res.)

Low Bit Rate Mode

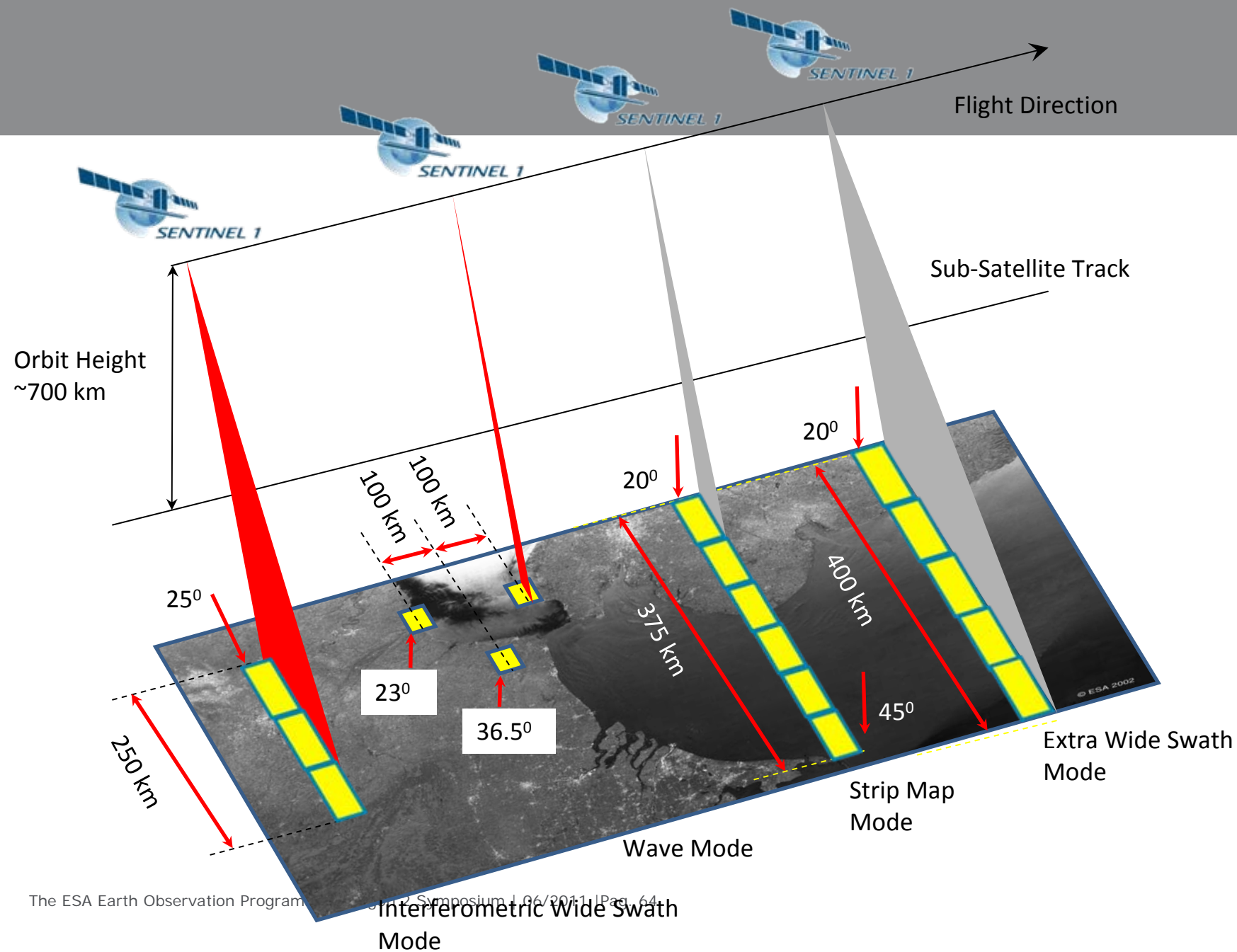
- Wave (5X5 m res.)

Duty Cycle: 25 min in HR mode per orbit in HBR mode & rest of the orbit in LBR

Sun synchronous orbit at 693 Km mean altitude

12 days repeat cycle

7 years design life time, consumables for 12 years



Challans: TOPSAR image



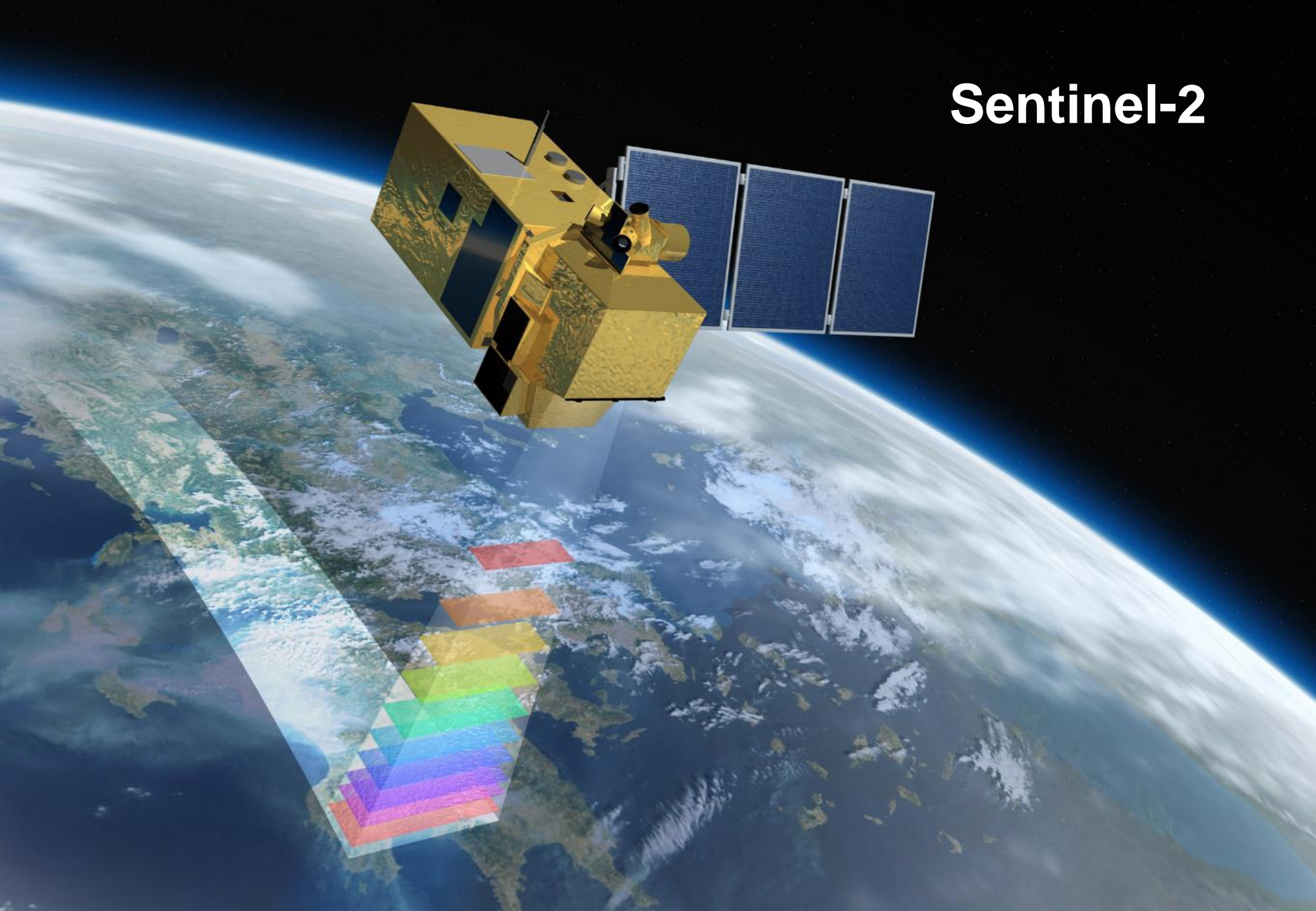
Time acquisition: July 9th, 2007 at 6.26 am



Courtesy of DLR

European Space Agency

Sentinel-2



Sentinel-2

Mission Highlights



Super-spectral Imaging Mission



Launch : mid 2013

Applications:

- Generic land cover maps
- Risk mapping and fast images for disaster relief
- generation of leaf coverage, leaf chlorophyll content and leaf water content

Push-broom filter based multi spectral imager with 13 spectral bands (VNIR & SWIR)

Spatial resolution: 10, 20 and 60 m

Field of view: 290 km

2 x 280Mbps concurrent channels
~18 min downlink required per orbit for data playback

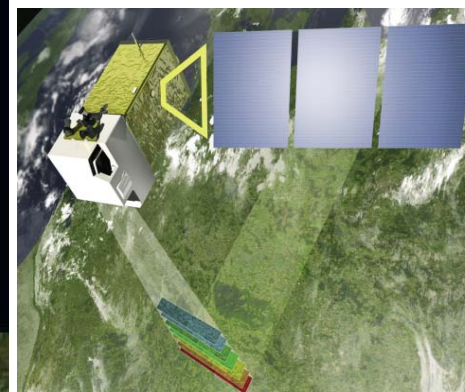
5 days repeat cycle (in twin spacecraft configuration)

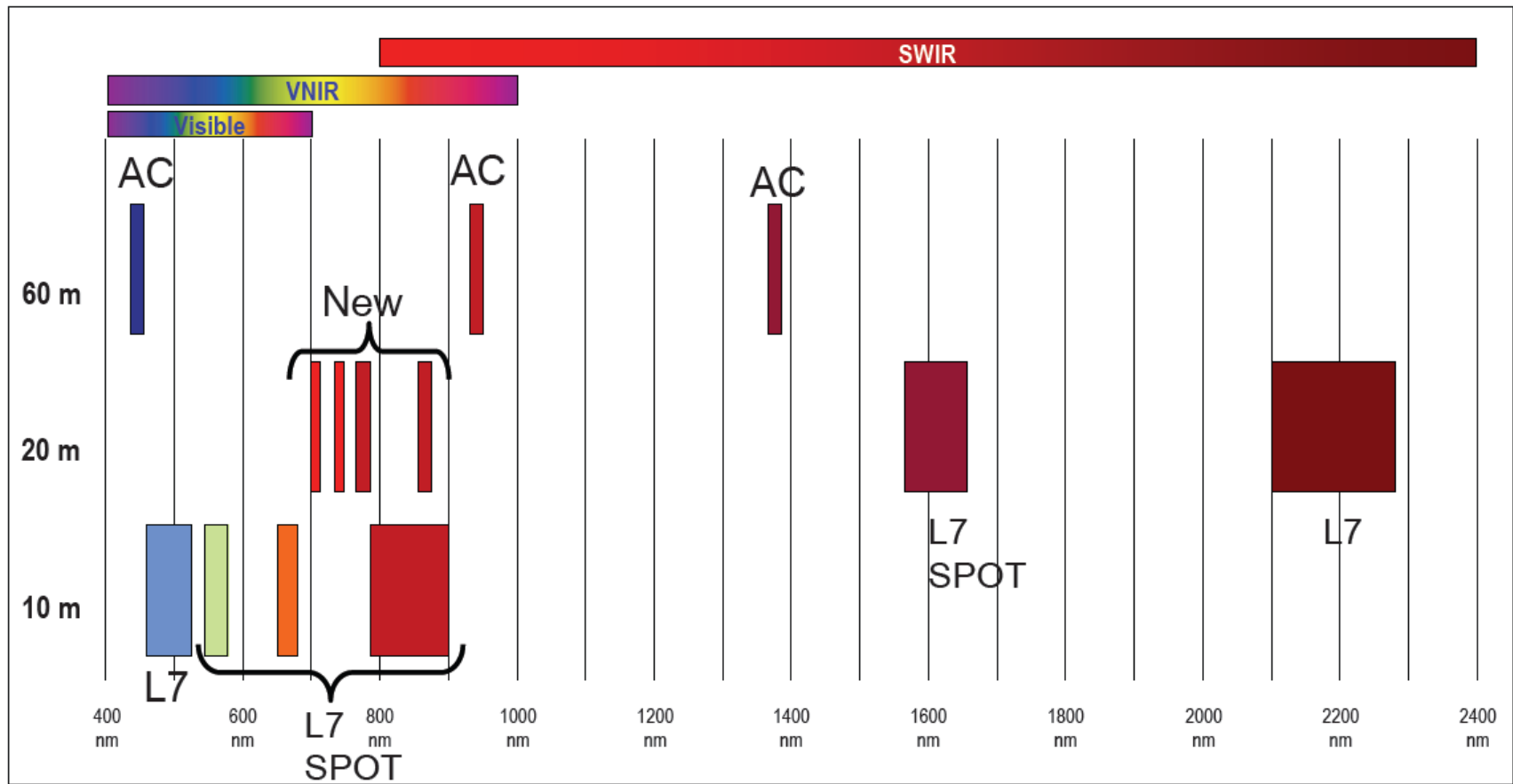
Sun synchronous orbit at 786 km mean altitude

7 years design life time, consumables for 12 years

S2 - Swath

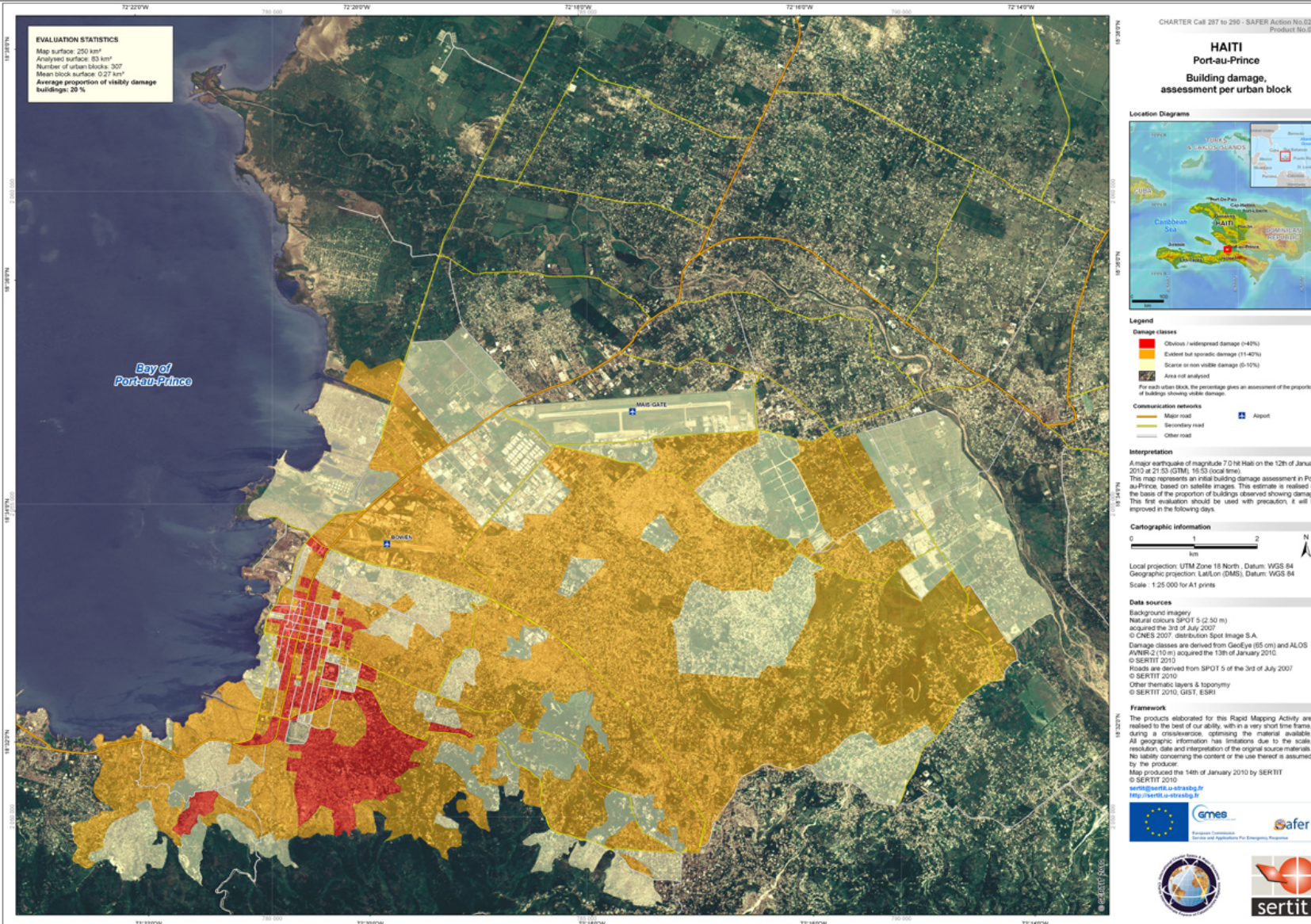
SPOT4 60 x 60 km x 2
IRS P6 LISS III 141x141 km
Landsat ETM+ 180 x 172 km
Sentinel-2 290 x 290 km





13 spectral bands versus spatial sampling distance

Emergency management: Earthquake



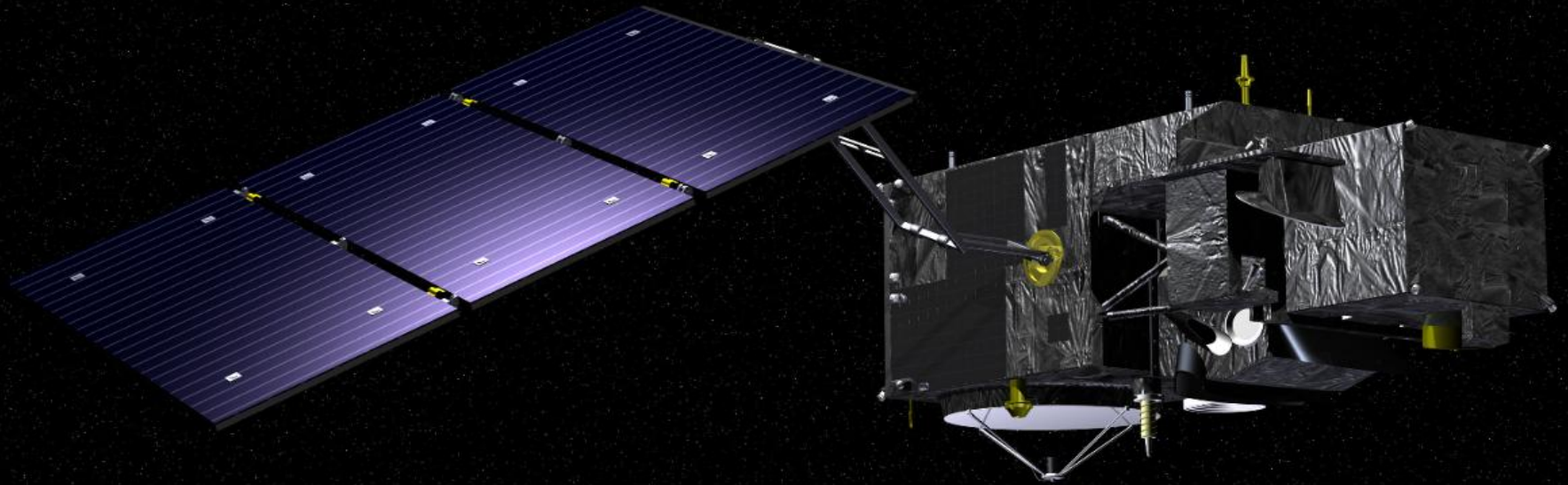
Earthquake management at Port-au-Prince, Haiti – 13 January 2010

Data: ALOS, SPOT-5, GeoEye

Credits: SERTIT/SAFER



Sentinel-3



Sentinel-3 Mission Highlights



Launch : mid 2013

Applications:

- Sea/land colour data and surface temperature
- sea surface and land ice topography
- coastal zones, inland water and sea ice topography
- vegetation products

1198 kg spacecraft mass

Sun synchronous orbit at 814.5 km mean altitude over geoid

27 days repeat cycle

7 years design life time, consumables for 12 years

- Topography Mission
 - Bi-frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar Altimeter
 - Microwave Radiometer
 - Precise Orbit Determination (POD) including
 - GNSS Receiver
 - Laser Retro-Reflector
- Optical Payload
 - Ocean and Land Colour Instrument (OLCI)
 - Sea and Land Surface Temperature (SLST)

Sentinel-3 SLSTR

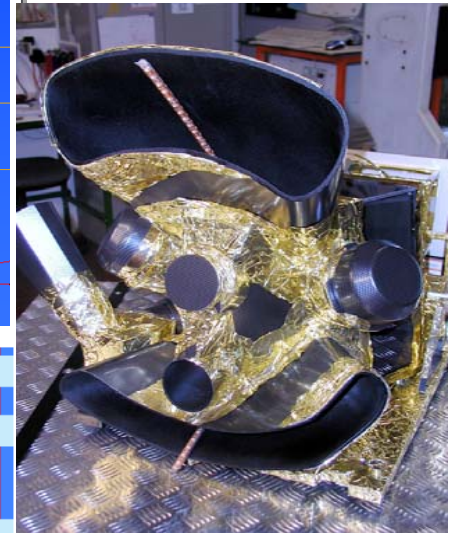
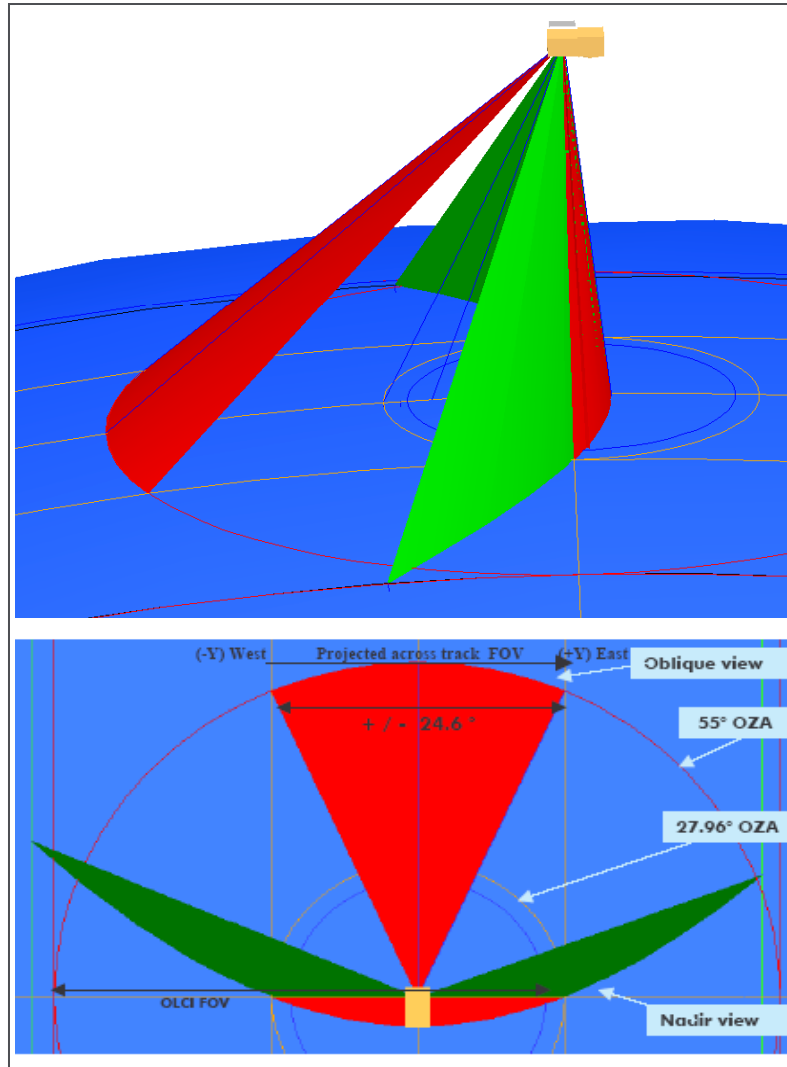
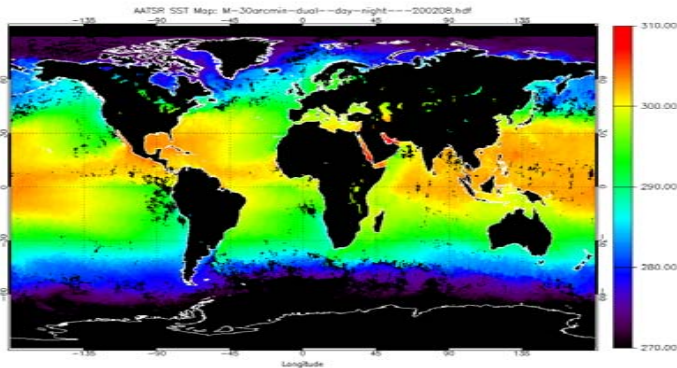


- **Heritage from AATSR, dual view (nadir and backward) required for aerosol corrections:**

- Nadir swath: 74° (1420 km typ)
- Dual view swath: 49° (750 km typ)
- Nadir swath covering OLCI swath

- **9 spectral bands:**

- Visible: 555–659–865 nm
- SWIR: 1.38–1.61–2.25 μm
- TIR : 3.74–10.85–12 μm

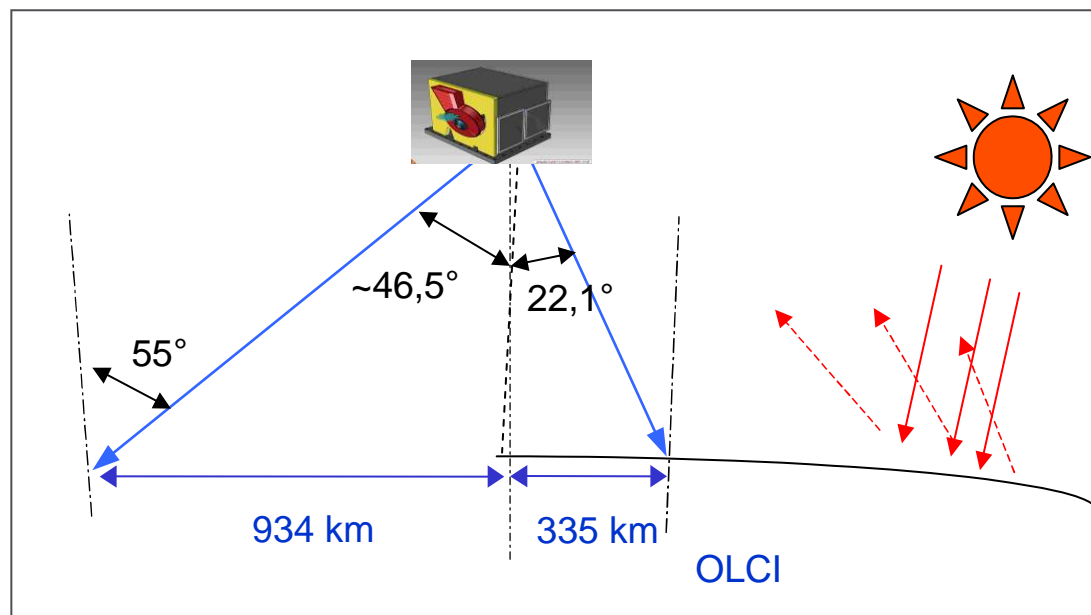


7/12/2011

Sentinel-3 OLCI



- 5 cameras, 21 programmable spectral bands (incl. channels for MERIS & VGT legacy products)
- Absolute radiometric accuracy < 2% (to the sun)
- Minimisation of sun-glint by design
- Spatial Resolution: 300m (at nadir)
 - 1200m open Ocean, after L1 processing
 - 300m over Land & Coastal Ocean



Heritage from MERIS

Sentinel-3 Topography Package



- **SRAL**

*Dual frequency Ku/C band
Radar Altimeter, with SAR mode and
open loop tracking (CryoSat/Jason
heritage)*

- **MWR**

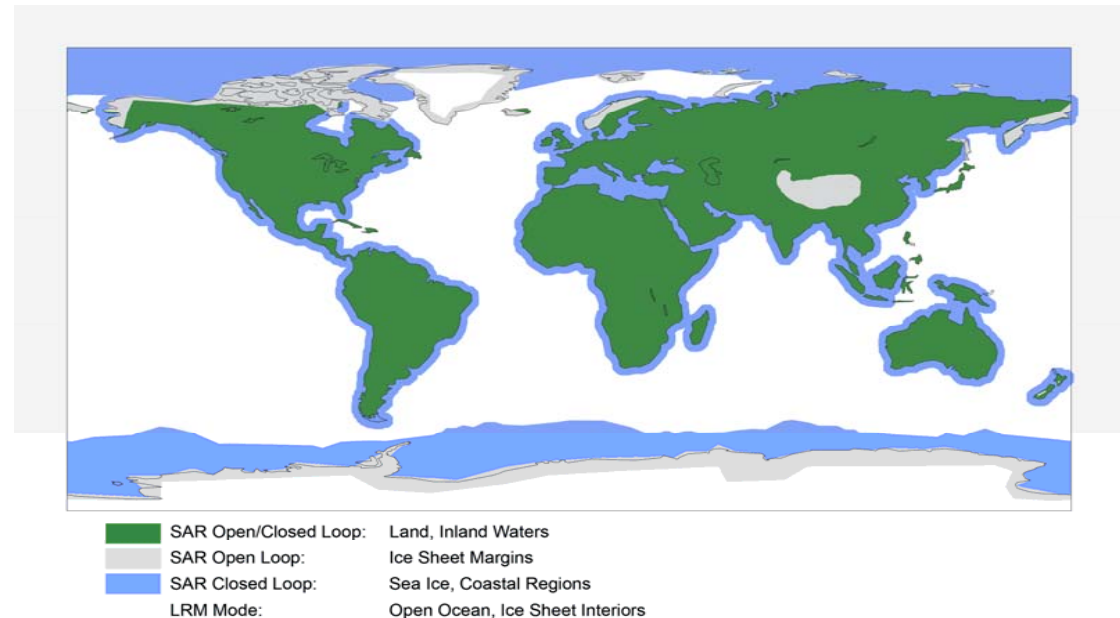
Dual channel microwave radiometer

- **Precise Orbit determination**

- **GPS receiver**

- **Doris navigation receiver**

- **Laser retro-reflector**



Climate Change Initiative

Realize the full potential of the long-term global EO archives that ESA, together with its Member states, has established over the last thirty years.....

..... as a significant and timely contribution to the ECV databases required by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

GCOS Essential Climate Variable (ECVs)



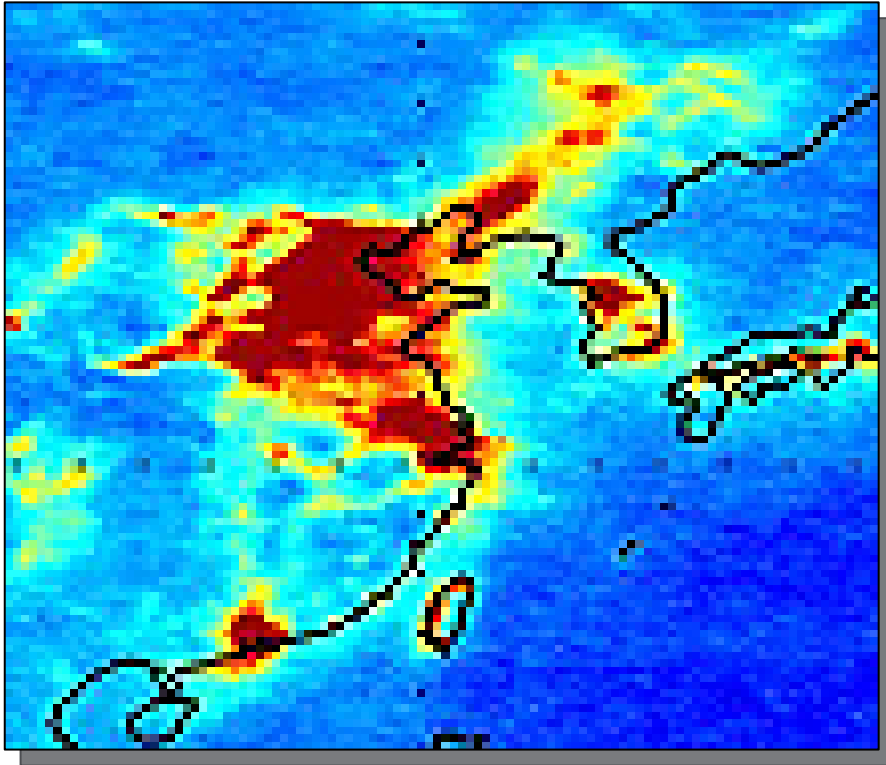
OCEANS	0.1	Sea Ice
	0.2	Sea Level
	0.3	Sea Surface Temperature
	0.4	Ocean Colour
	0.5	Sea State
	0.6	Ocean Reanalysis
	0.7	Ocean Salinity

TERRESTRIAL	T.1	Lakes
	T.2	Glaciers & Ice Caps, and Ice Sheets
	T.3	Snow Cover
	T.4	Albedo
	T.5	Land Cover
	T.6	fAPAR
	T.7	LAI
	T.8	Biomass
	T.9	Fire Disturbance
	T.10	Soil moisture

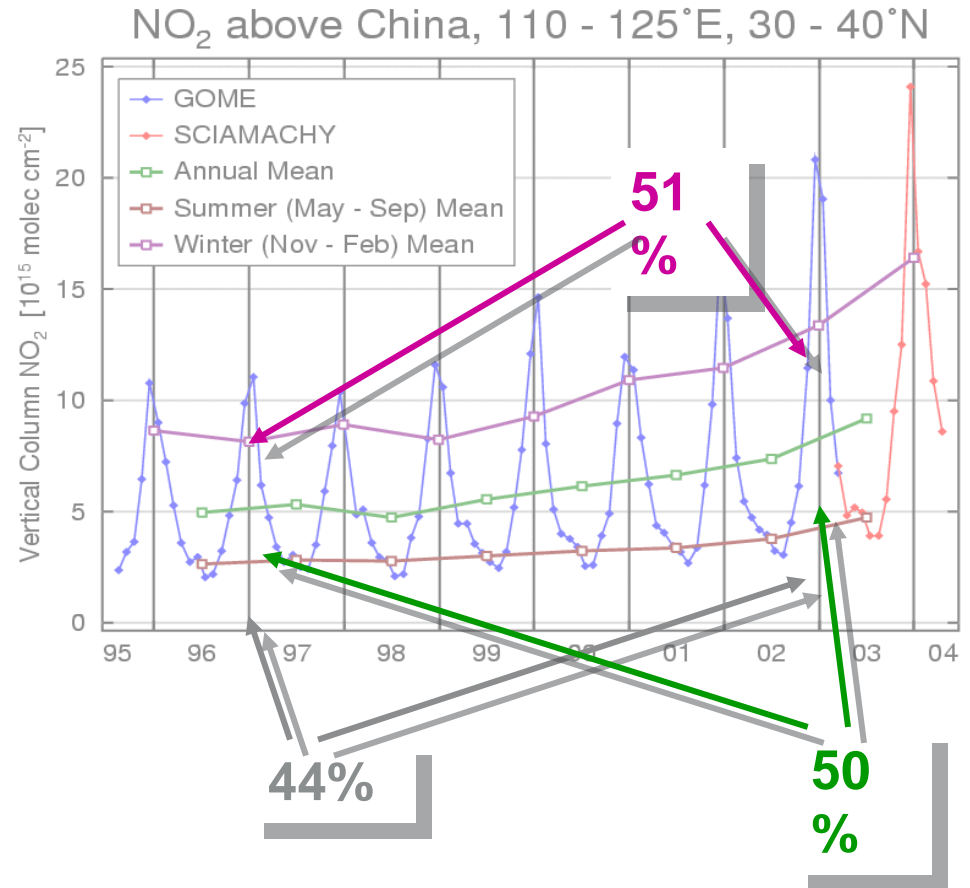
ATMOSPHERE	A.1	Surface Wind Speed and Direction
	A.2	Upper-air Temperature
	A.3	Water Vapour
	A.4	Cloud Properties
	A.5	Precipitation
	A.6	Earth Radiation Budget
	A.7	Ozone
	A.8	Atmospheric reanalysis (multiple ECVs)
	A.9	Aerosols
	A.10	Carbon Dioxide, Methane and other Greenhouse Gases
	A.11	Upper-air Wind

CCI First Steps (11 + 2ECVs)
Later in CCI (8 ECVs)

NO₂ concentration increase by 50% over China



Combined with ERS-2 GOME data



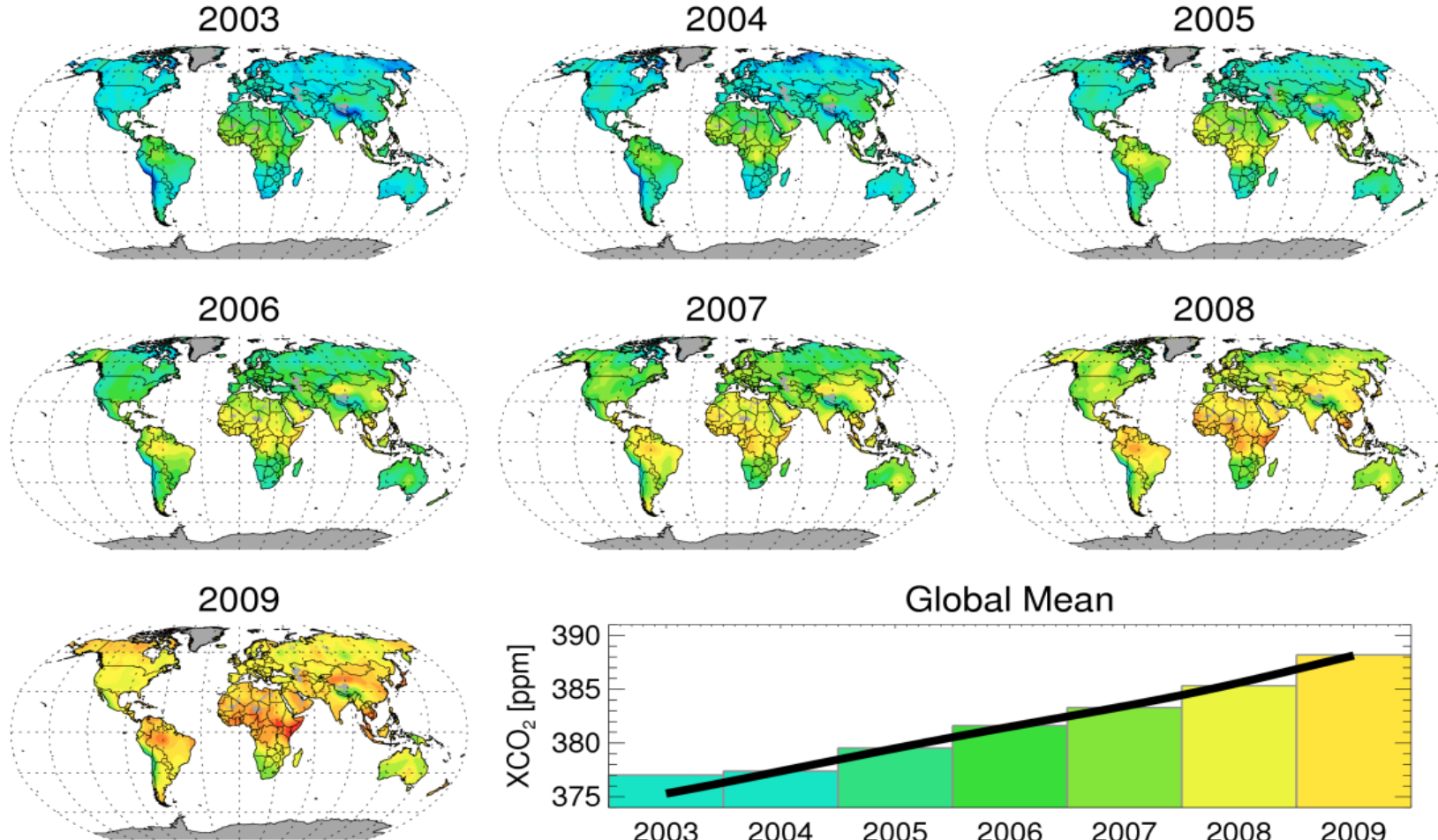
Courtesy of John Burrows, Univ. Bremen, D

R & D— Recent Results



GreenHouseGases
Monitoring – GHG_cci
project

Global CO₂ increase
as measured by
SCIAMACHY



XCO₂*0.997, sm=20





- UNFCCC which coordinates the interests and decisions of its Parties on Climate Policy,



- GCOS which represents the scientific and technical requirements of the Global Climate Observing System on behalf of UNFCCC,



- CEOS which serves as a focal point for Earth Observation related activities of Space Agencies (e.g NOAA, NASA, JAXA, EUMETSAT)



- Individual Partner Space Agencies with whom ESA cooperates bilaterally (e.g. EUMETSAT)



- International Climate Research Programmes, which represent the collective interests and priorities of the worldwide climate research,

- EC and National Research Programmes which establish research priorities and provide resources for climate research community within Europe (e.g. DG Research, DG-JRC)

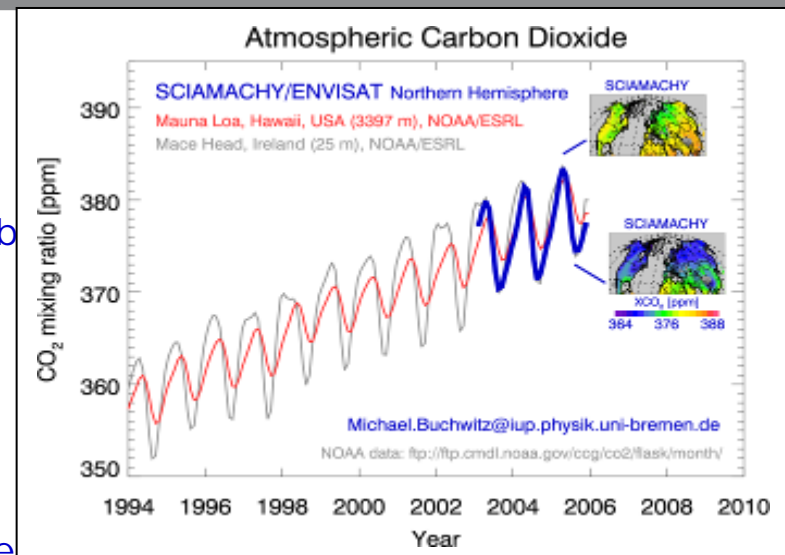


- GMES Partners: DG Enterprise and Industry, user DGs ENV, EEA...

next 3 years => CCI phase 1

Cardinal Requirements:

- Develop and validate algorithms to meet GCOS ECV requirements for (consistent, stable, error-characterized) global satellite data products from multi-sensor data archives
- Optimize impact of ESA EO missions data on climate data records
- Produce, within R&D context, most complete and consistent possible multi-sensor global satellite data products for climate research and modelling
- Generate complete specifications for an operational production system
- Strengthen inter-disciplinary cooperation between international earth observation, climate research and modelling communities, in pursuit of scientific excellence



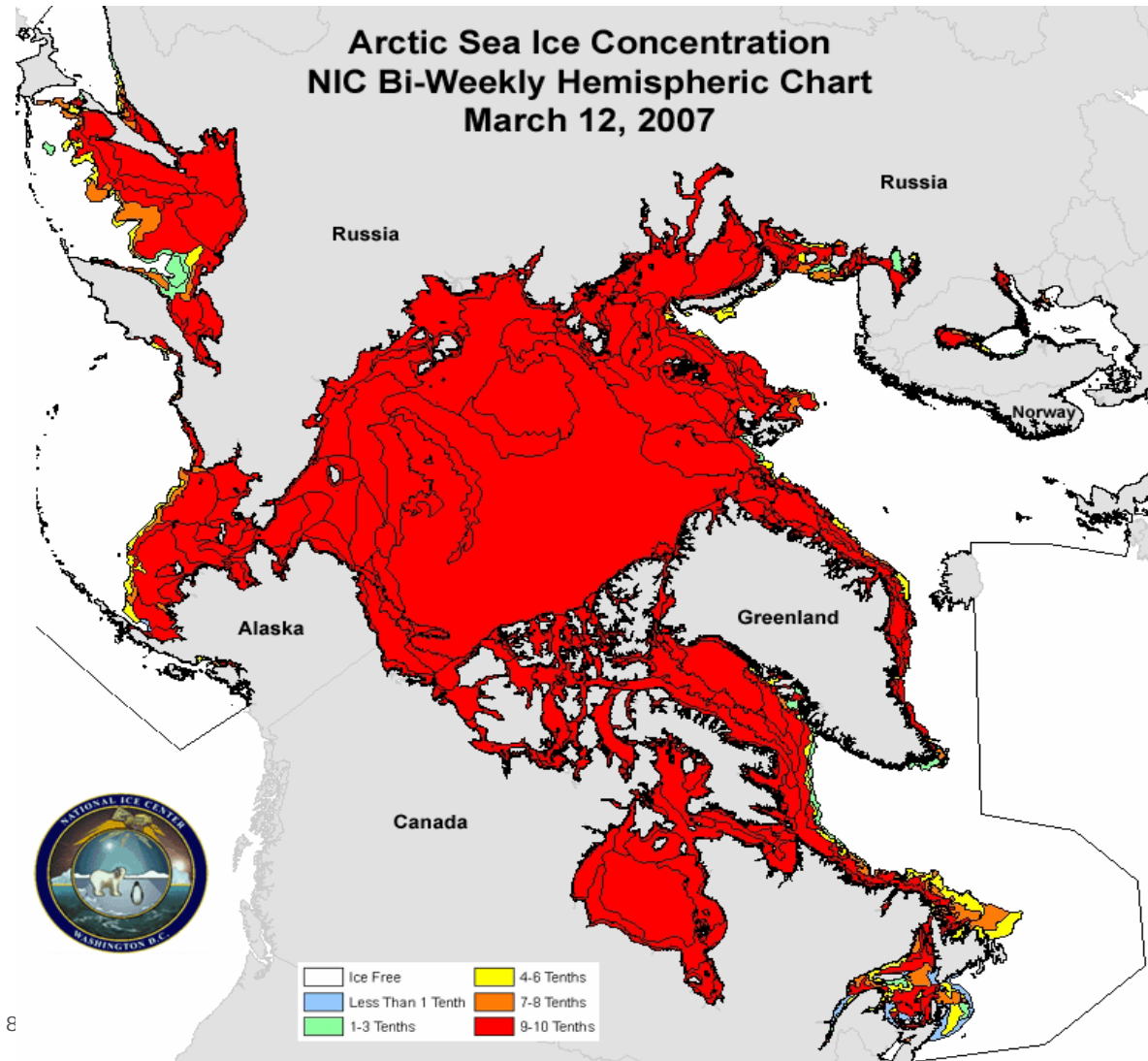
Annual variability of carbon dioxide mixing ratio in parts per million (Univ. Bremen)

Discrepancy Models / Satellites Observations

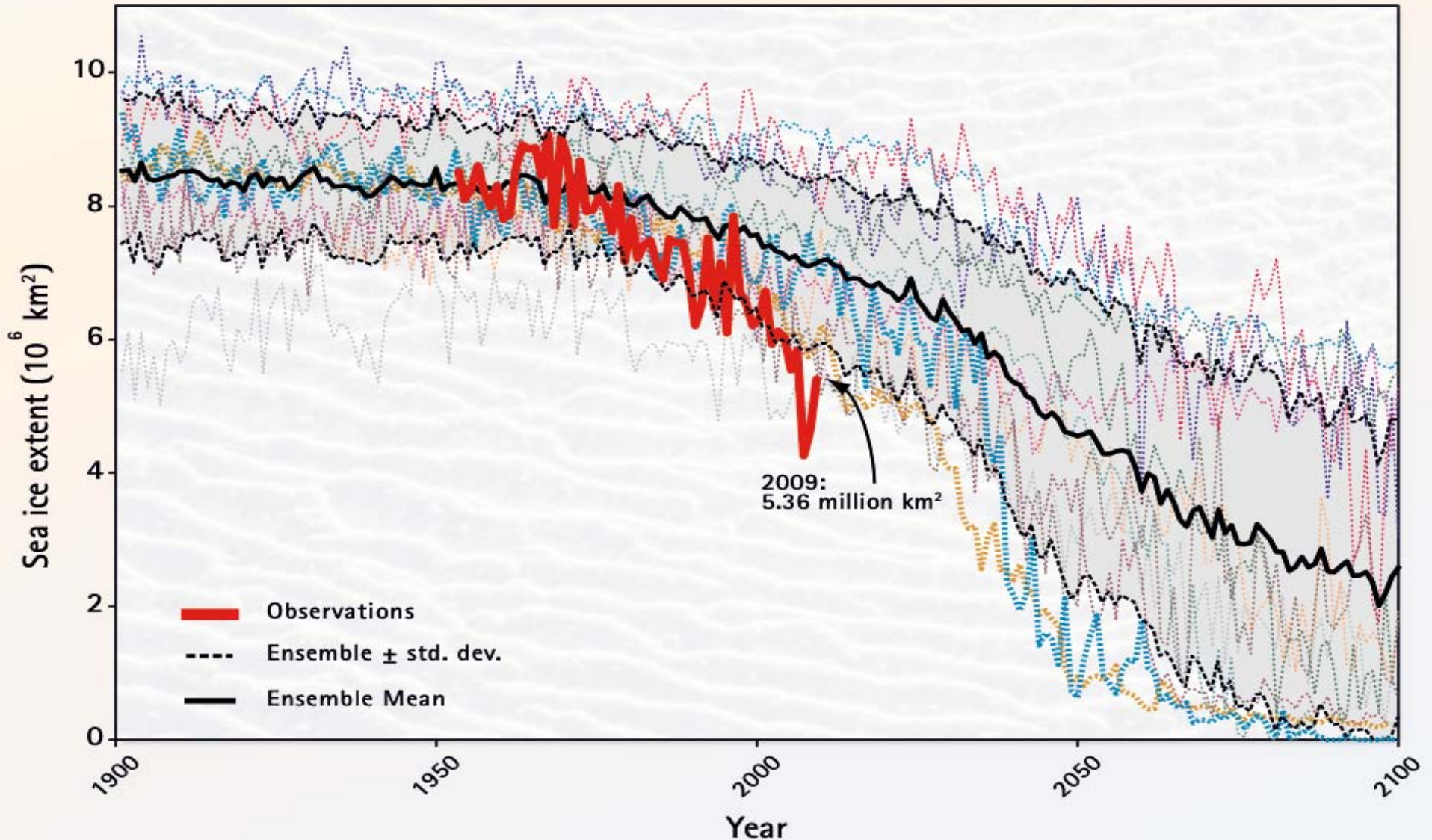
Arctic sea ice extent

Douglas Bancroft, Director of the Canadian Ice Service, the record reduction in 2007 stunned the international operational ice charting community:

"The overall extent was similar to what some of the models envisioned but decades in advance of when they expected that would occur. In fact, the summer of 2007 looked very similar to some climate model forecasts for 2030 to 2050."



Discrepancy between sea ice extent models (IPCC) and satellite observations...



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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[European Space Agency ESRIN](#)