OST-VC links the agencies, OSTST, altimetry user community, and CEOS

- Ocean Surface Topography Science Team
    - Proposals due on October 1st (TOSCA call) and on October 8th (ROSES call)
  - 2020 OSTST meeting planned next October was cancelled due to covid-19

- Inter-agency cooperation on current and future missions
  - CFOSAT: CNSA, CNES, EUMETSAT (NRT distribution)
  - Jason-3: NOAA, EUMETSAT, NASA, CNES
  - SARAL/AltiKa: ISRO, CNES, EUMETSAT (NRT distribution)
  - Hy-2A/2B/2C/2D: CNSA, CNES
  - Sentinel-3 A/B/C/D: EU, EUMETSAT (ocean), ESA (land)
  - Sentinel-6 Patrik Freilich/B: EU, EUMETSAT, ESA, NOAA, NASA, CNES
  - CRISTAL: EU, ESA (polar areas), EUMETSAT (global ocean)
  - SWOT: NASA/JPL, CNES, CSA, UKSA
  - WISA: ESA, CNES
  - CryoSat-2: ESA
  - COMPIRA: JAXA
  - GUANLAN: CNSA
  - Copernicus Next Generation Topography Constellation (Follow-on of S3, S6 and CRISTAL)

- OST-VC suited to discuss constellation-wide programmatic issues
  - From virtual to actual coordinated constellation
  - Update of Constellation URD

- OST-VC representative in COVERAGE initiative

- OST-VC is interested by some coordination with the CEOS COAST (Coastal Observations and Applications Study Team) especially in the context of coastal altimetry.
Co-chairs:
  - Remko Scharroo (EUMETSAT) also OSTST project scientist, to be replaced by Estelle Obligis (proposed to the SIT meeting for approval in October)
  - Annick Sylvestre-Baron (CNES)

Other members:
  - Craig Donlon (ESA) also OSTST project scientist
  - Eric Leuliette (NOAA) also OSTST project scientist
  - Nadya Vinogradova (NASA) - Eric Lindstrom retired end of 2019
  - Gregg Jacobs (US Navy)
  - Kai Matsui (JAXA)
  - Rashmi Sharma (ISRO)
  - Wang Chen left CNSA last year – A new CNSA representative to be designed
Timeline of modern radar altimetry missions
CFOSAT
  o Launched 29 October 2018 - Not directly for ocean topography, but winds and waves
  o All data released to science community since July 2020
  o L3 SWH CFOSAT available on CMEMS catalogue

SARAL
  o Extension of mission to end of 2021
  o Current drifting phase - for winds, waves and geodetic applications

Jason-3
  o Since Jason-2 decommissioning, Jason-3 is the altimetry reference mission
  o Still on historical TOPEX/Poseidon orbit – S6 Michael Freilich on the same orbit as Jason-3 for at least 6 months then Jason-3 will change to a TBD orbit (OSTST action)

Sentinel-3
  o C unit planned for 2023 and D unit for 2025. Phasing with A/B under discussion.

Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich
  o To be launched on November 10th, 2020 (LORR on 10th of September)
  o Will be the future altimetry reference mission
  o Sentinel-6B to be launched around 2026.

HY2
  o HY2-B - Nominal quality of data and nominal availability. L2 products available from CNSA. L3 in CMEMS catalogue since this summer.
  o HY2-CTo be launched this fall

SWOT
  o Official launch date (decision before covid-19 crisis): Feb 2022

Reprocessing
  o To secure and improve the climate quality sea level time series various reprocessing efforts are on-going
  o Sentinel-3: full reprocessing for A and B satellites done in 2020
  o TOPEX/Poseidon: to be available soon
  o Jason-3 reprocessing is ongoing (alignment with Sentinel-6 standards). Jason-1 & 2 to follow.
OST-VC Team Activities and Outputs (1)

- Important action from last 2019 CEOS Strategic Implementation Team Technical Workshop (SIT TW 2019) – 11/12 September 2019, Fairbanks, USA


- Deliver a new OST-VC White Paper Document (action VC-19-06) by Q4 2020

- Integrate new user needs (included specific requirement from the CEOS COAST team) from recent books and white papers from the community. E.g.
OST-VC Side meeting at 2019 Ocean Surface Topography Team (OSTST) Meeting in Chicago, 21-25 October 2019 mainly dedicated to action VC-19-06

- OST-VC presentation done during the OSTST plenary closure session to present the OST-VC action (contents, implementation planning, OSTST solicitation)

- OSTST will be solicited:
  - For specific contributions in their area of expertise
  - For overall review of the first draft

- Remaining parts will be done by the OST-VC members under Eumetsat/CNES coordination.

Beginning of 2020, ESA kicked off the Copernicus Next Generation Topography Constellation (NG-TC) Expert Team. Because of the large overlap with the activities considered for the writing of a White Paper on this by the OST-VC, it was concluded that the activities for the White Paper would best be delayed until the NG-TC activities have concluded (later 2020), and the scope of the OST-VC White Paper can be reassessed. The NG-TC MATER (Mission Assumptions and the derived Technical Requirements) will be an additional input to update the OST-VC white paper.

- OST-VC members were informed mid of May
- Information done via OST-VC May monthly report
- New deadline for VC-19-06 is End of 2021