CEOS Collaborations Overview



Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

Julie Robinson, NASA
CEOS SIT Chair 2026 - 2027
EO Data Collaboration Forum
Washington DC, USA
8 September 2026

Global EO Sector Evolution

"Public-private partnerships will turn NASA into a **force-multiplier for science**, allowing us to pursue more missions than traditional models alone would permit."

-NASA Ignition 2026, Administrator Jared Isaacman

"We need to stimulate a more vibrant and **dynamic commercial space ecosystem** to realize green and digital transformations."

-Agenda 2025, European Space Agency

"Over the past decade, new satellites and sensors have dramatically expanded the quality, coverage and range of EO data available. Pushing the boundaries of these technologies is important to fuel downstream applications, and **investment from both the public and private sectors plays an important role**."

-Amplifying the Global Value of EO, World Economic Forum

Background & Membership

- CEOS was established in **1984** under the aegis of the G7 Economic Summit
- Membership has grown to **66** organizations worldwide



CEOS 40th Anniversary: Messages from Principals

Mission & Primary Objectives

Mission: CEOS ensures international coordination of civil space-based Earth observation programs and promotes exchange of data to optimize societal benefit and inform decision making for securing a prosperous and sustainable future for humankind.

Primary Objectives

- Optimize global societal benefit from space-based Earth observation missions
- Serve as the focal point for sustained international coordination among space-based Earth observation programs, remote sensing experts, and activities
- Promote complementarity and compatibility for the benefit of data user communities worldwide

Current Membership Categories

- **Members** (34)

Governmental organizations that are international or national in nature and are responsible for a civil space-based Earth observation program currently operating.

- **Associates** (32)

Governmental organizations that are international or national in nature and currently have a civil space-segment in Phase A/pre-Phase A.

Other existing satellite coordination groups and scientific or governmental bodies that support CEOS objectives.

CEOS welcomes collaboration with the commercial Earth observation sector through its thematically and technically oriented Working Groups (WG), Virtual Constellations (VC), and Task Teams. [Added to CEOS website in 2025]

Individual Member Agencies are Evolving

- NASA CSDA Program
- ESA CCM & TPM Programs
- NOAA Commercial Data Program
- JAXA CONSEO
- CSA RADARSAT+ Portfolio
- CNES DINAMIS Portal
- Etc













Agency / Commercial Coordination Forums

- VH-RODA
- JACIE

Strategic Leadership Priority Trend

- 2022 **ESA** SIT Chair Priority
  - CEOS New Space Task Team (NSTT)
- 2023 **GISTA** Chair Theme
  - Supporting the Exploration of New Geometries for CEOS with New Space
- 2024 **CSA** Chair Theme
  - Encouraging Commercial Sector engagement across CEOS Priorities
- 2025 **UKSA** Chair Theme
  - Unlocking Earth Observations for Public Services
- 2026 **Australia** Chair Theme
  - Positioning CEOS for Success in a Rapidly Changing Context
- 2026 **NASA** SIT Chair Priority
  - Updating CEOS Value Chain to reflect current Earth observation ecosystem

All Working Level Groups Open to Commercial Participation

Virtual Constellations

- Atmospheric Composition (AC-VC)
- Biodiversity (B-VC)
- Coastal (COAST-VC)
- Land Surface Imaging (LSI-VC)
- Ocean Color Radiometry (OCR-VC)
- Ocean Surface Topography (OST-VC)
- Ocean Surface Vector Wind (OSVW-VC)
- Precipitation (P-VC)
- Sea Surface Temperature (SST-VC)
- *Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR-VC)**

**Pending Plenary Endorsement*

Working Groups

- Capacity Building and Data Democracy (WGCapD)
- Calibration and Validation (WGCV)
- Climate (WGClimate)
- Disasters (WGDisasters)
- Information Systems and Services (WGISS)

Crosscutting Groups

- Analysis Ready Data Oversight Group (CEOS-ARD)
- EO Training, Education, Capacity Development Network (EOTEC DevNet)

Working Level Groups Exploring Commercial Engagement

Almost every CEOS group supports or interfaces with the commercial sector to varying degrees and in different ways:

- WGCV creates and maintains International Cal/Val Networks (**RadCalNet**)
- WGISS created and maintains the CEOS **Interoperability Handbook**
- WGDisasters manages commercial data provision to Geohazard Supersites
- WGCapD coordinates and facilitates training to civil and commercial audiences
- CEOS-ARD Oversight Group manages commercial **ARD self-assessments**
- LSI-VC has robust commercial participation on land surface imaging topics
- AC-VC engages with some companies on GHG aspects
- P-VC is exploring how to **integrate** commercial precipitation data

Optimizing for the Future

Over the past decade, Earth observation evolved from an architecture dominated by government-owned and operated missions towards a hybrid Earth observation enterprise in which commercial systems are increasingly treated as an integral, complementary source of national and global observing capability.

- How can we strengthen the industry and improve interoperability across this increasingly heterogeneous **public-private ecosystem**?



CEOS Fleet 2026

CEOS SIT TW: Action

"SIT-TW-26-13: SIT Chair team to prepare a strategy for CEOS review regarding a more organised approach / mailing list for sustained connection to the private sector, perhaps similar to how CEOS Agencies have designated points of contact."