

Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)
Working Group on Calibration and Validation (WGCV)
Terrain Mapping Subgroup (TMSG)

Terms of Reference

June 2026

The TMSG Mission is to ensure that characteristics of digital terrain models produced from Earth observation sensors at global and regional scales are well understood and that products are validated and used for appropriate applications.

The objectives of the Terrain Mapping subgroup, beyond those of the WGCV, are to:

- Develop specifications for the generation of “standardised terrain surface products with known accuracy” from similar sensing systems in the context of data continuity
- Specify evaluation methods and statistics that give transparent information about the quality and heritage of terrain models
- Update the current dossier of test sites and identify new sites, particularly to satisfy the calibration/validation requirements of future missions and generally improve access to validation data sets
- Prepare recommendations for the establishment of a global ground control point network
- Keep an up-to-date record of the current status of sensors that produce data for terrain mapping and of available Digital Elevation Models (DEM)

Action Plan

TMSG objectives will be achieved through the following activities:

- Liaise with CEOS Agency activities, especially the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS), to determine the DEM requirements of the user community and ensure that calibration/validation procedures are in place to satisfy that need
- Collaborate with other groups to ensure that common activities are coordinated and enhanced by collaboration
- Meet annually to review progress, plan future actions, and discuss results
- Organise an intercomparison exercise of existing (publicly available) global DEMs

Chair

[Dr. Peter Strobl](#)

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