

ESA Agency Report

WGISS#61 – 16-20 March 2026

Mirko Albani (ESA)

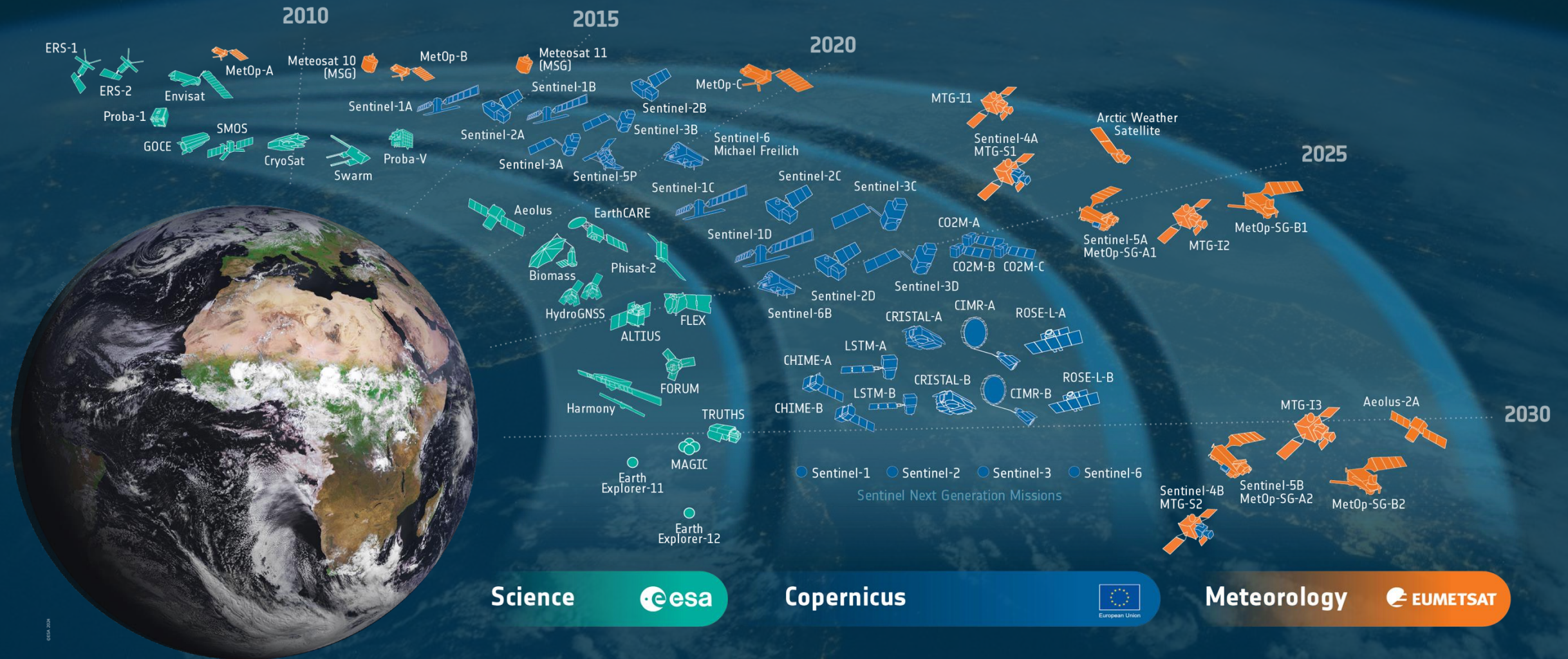
ESA Ministerial Council Meeting November 2025



ESA Member States approved a record-breaking **€22.3 billion** budget for 2026–2028, a 31% increase over 2022. **Earth Observation was allocated with €3.5 billion.**



ESA Developed EO Missions



HERITAGE MISSIONS

TIMELINE

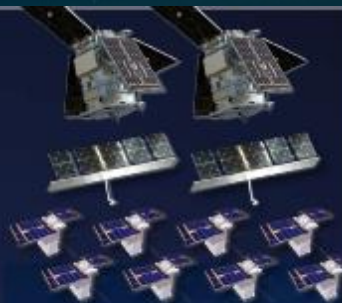


- Optical
- SAR
- SAR + Optical
- SAR + Optical + Atmospheric
- Gravity Field
- Ongoing



On some heritage missions only part of the dataset is available at ESA.





Sentinel-1D
4 November

Sentinel-6B
17 November

2 HydroGNSS (*Scout*)
+ 8 Eaglet (*IRIDE*)
+ 2 Iceye (*GR nat. pr.*)
+ IPERLITE (*BELSPO*)
28 November

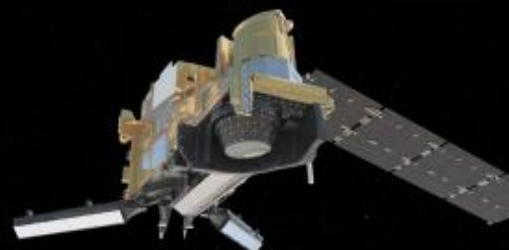
Four planned launch campaigns



MTG-I2 (Q3)



Sentinel-3C (Q3)



MetOp-SG B1 (Q4)



FLEX (Q3)

Science Missions in Operations



SMOS

Excellent performance still after 16+ years in operation



Aeolus

Development of Baseline 17 progressing nominally public release of dataset planned summer 2027



EarthCARE

BBR operations adapted to match 10y lifetime estimate. Successful Science & Validation Workshop held 1-5 Dec., Tokyo with planned release of L2 products




Swarm

Excellent performance still while closing in on 12 years operations



BIOMASS

Commissioning completed Data now open to all



Scout-2: HydroGNSS

Commissioning progressing well, all frequencies & polarisations working



CryoSat

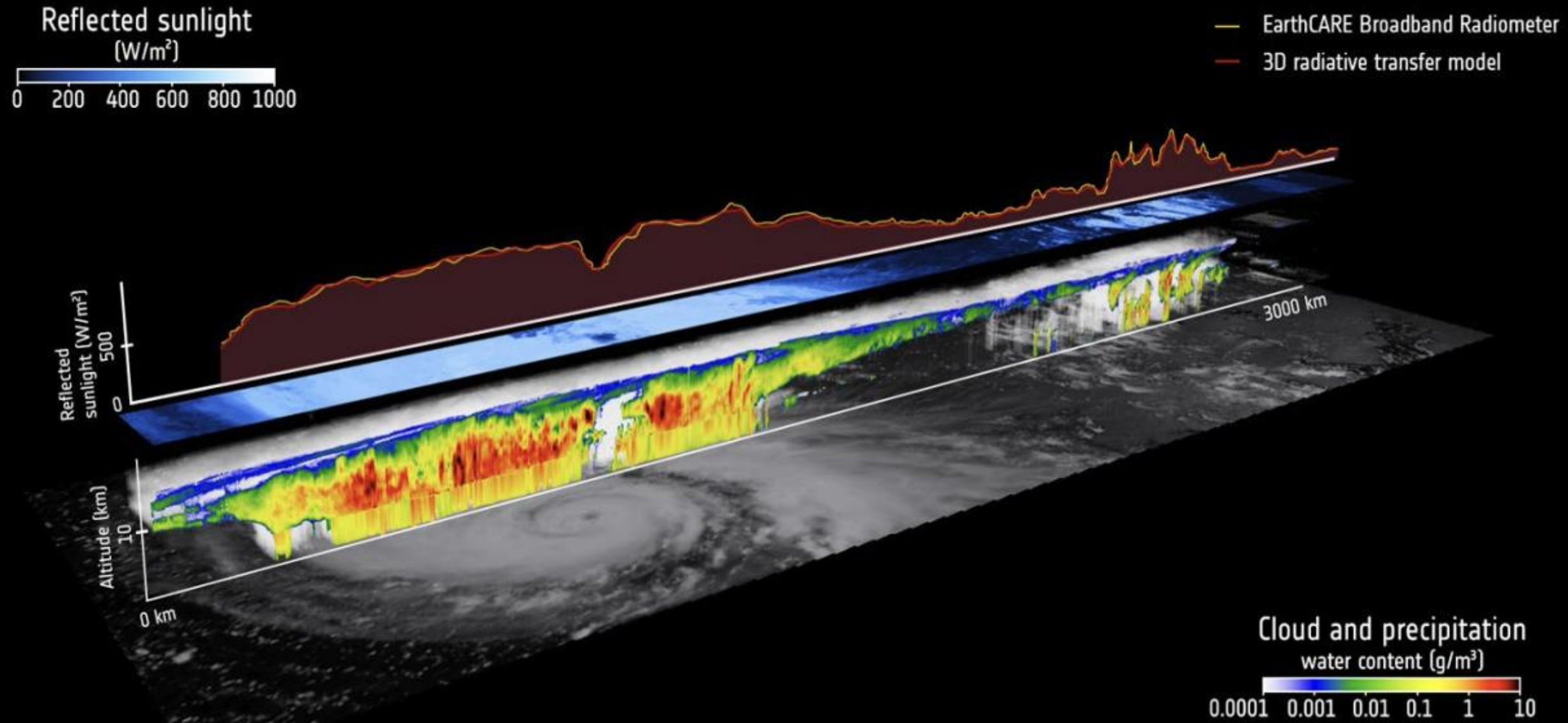
Excellent performance still after 15+ years in operation



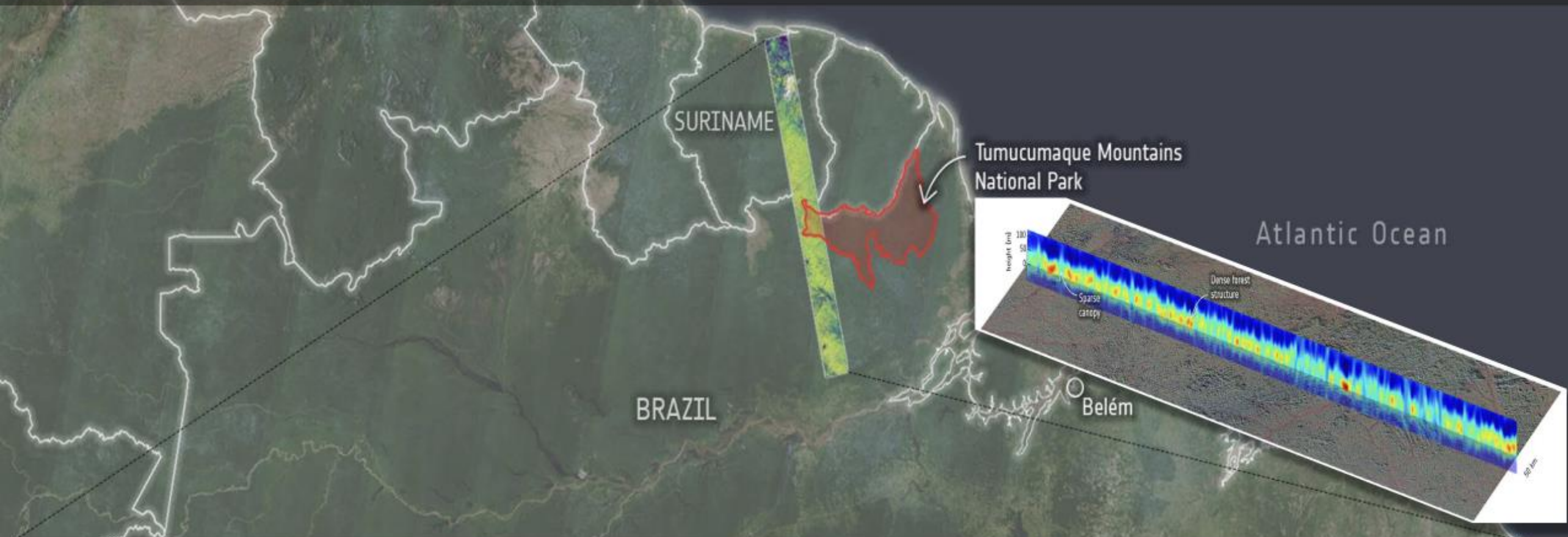
PhiSat-2

Nominal operations with slow orbital decay End of operations planned March 2026

EarthCARE Improves Estimates of Cloud Influence on Earth's Energy Balance



Biomass Measuring Forest Height over Brazil (Showcased at COP30)



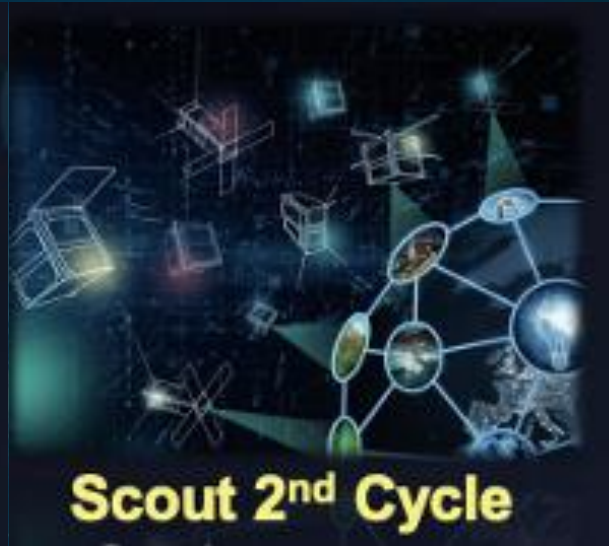
Science Missions in Preparations



**Scout-3:
NanoMagSat**



Scout-4: Tango



Scout 2nd Cycle

Several others ongoing:

- ALTIUS
- WIVERN
- EE12
- NGGM
- National Missions



FLEX



Forum



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LANDSAT 5 TM EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA COVERAGE 1984-85
This collections contains Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) imagery acquired over Europe

LANDSAT 5 TM EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA COVERAGE 1986-89
This collections contains Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) imagery acquired over Europe

LANDSAT 5 TM EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA COVERAGE 1995-98
This collections contains Landsat 5 Thematic Mapper (TM) imagery acquired over Europe

FDR4 ATMOS
Fundamental Data Record for Atmospheric Composition [ATMOS__L1B]
TI Screenshot Data Record (FDR) for Atmospheric Composition UVN v1.0 dataset is

portal.maap.eo.esa.int/biomass/

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Sentinels 1st Generation



Sentinel-1A: Quasi nominal operations. Disposal approach under consolidation
Sentinel-1C: Nominal operations. Data collection proceeding nominally
Sentinel-1D: Commissioning Phase on-going. IOCR planned at the end of April

Sentinel-2A: Extended campaign ongoing since March 2025, until May 2026. Further 19 months extension until end 2027 under consideration
Sentinel-2B/C: Nominal operations
Sentinel-2D: successful Flight Acceptance Review, satellite in storage

Sentinel-3A/B: Nominal operations
Sentinel-3C: De-storage activities on-going, agreed launch period Q3 2026
Sentinel-3D: Acceptance test campaign completed and satellite in storage

Sentinel-4: PFM successfully launched on MTG-S1, now in operation

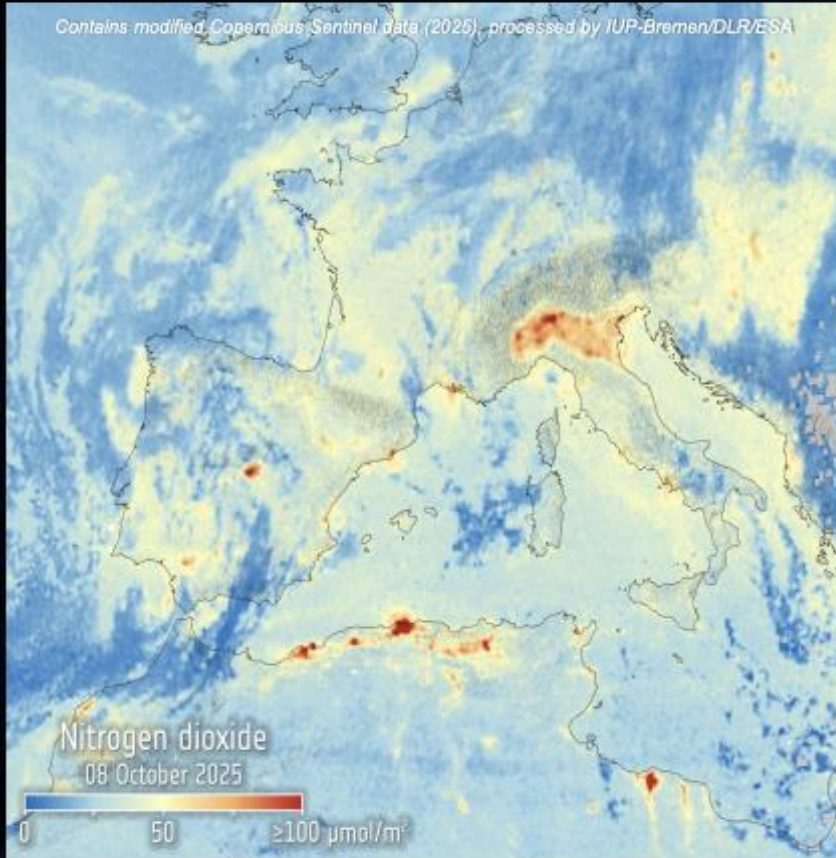
Sentinel-5: In-Orbit Commissioning Review held successfully. FM2 and FM3 development ongoing
Sentinel-5P: Nominal operations with continuous high performance of the payload and ground segment

Sentinel-6B: spacecraft In-Orbit Validation completed in early February, excellent performances confirmed



Sentinel-4 First Images

Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2025), processed by IUP-Bremen/DLR/ESA



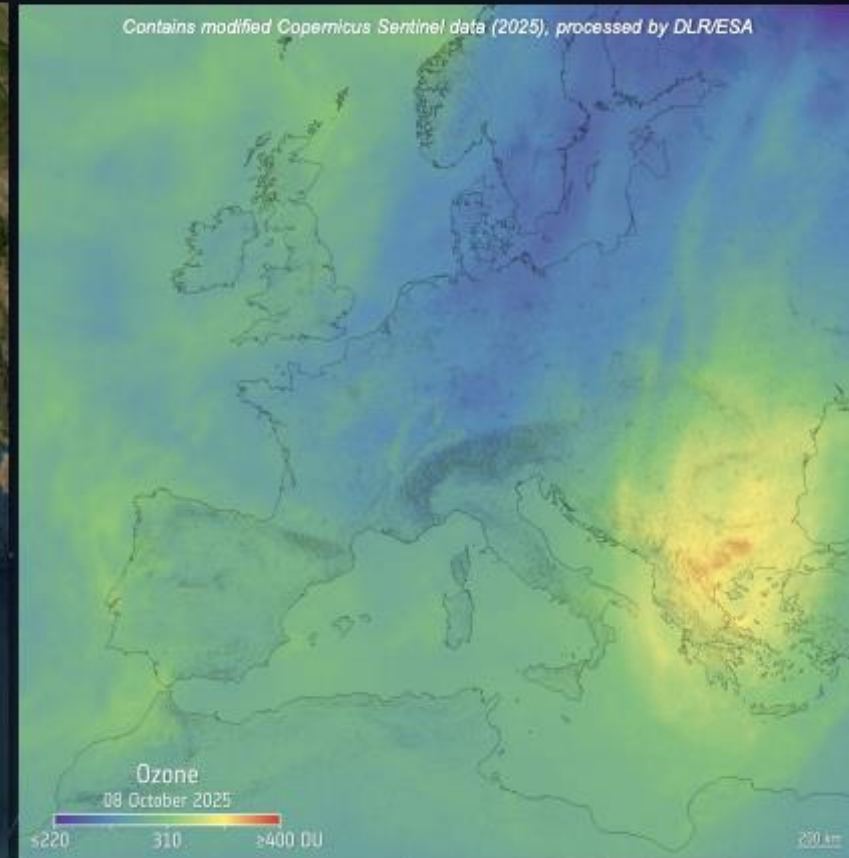
Tropospheric nitrogen dioxide over Europe captured on 8 October 2025

Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2025), processed by BIRA/DLR/ESA



Vertical column density of sulphur dioxide over Etna, captured on 8 October 2025

Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2025), processed by DLR/ESA

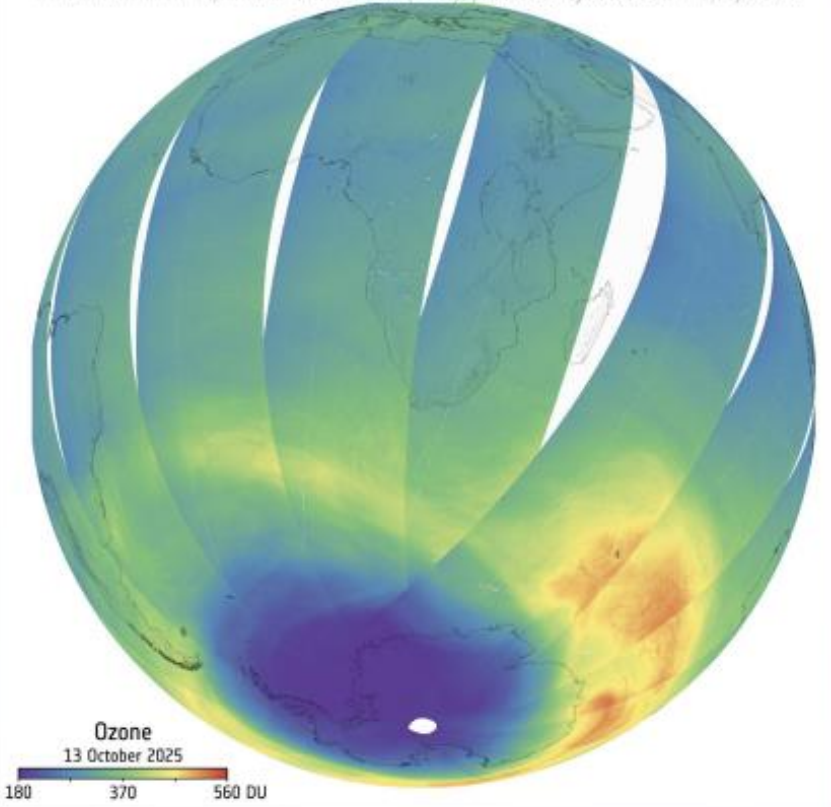


Vertical column of ozone over Europe, captured on 8 October 2025

Sentinel-5 First Images

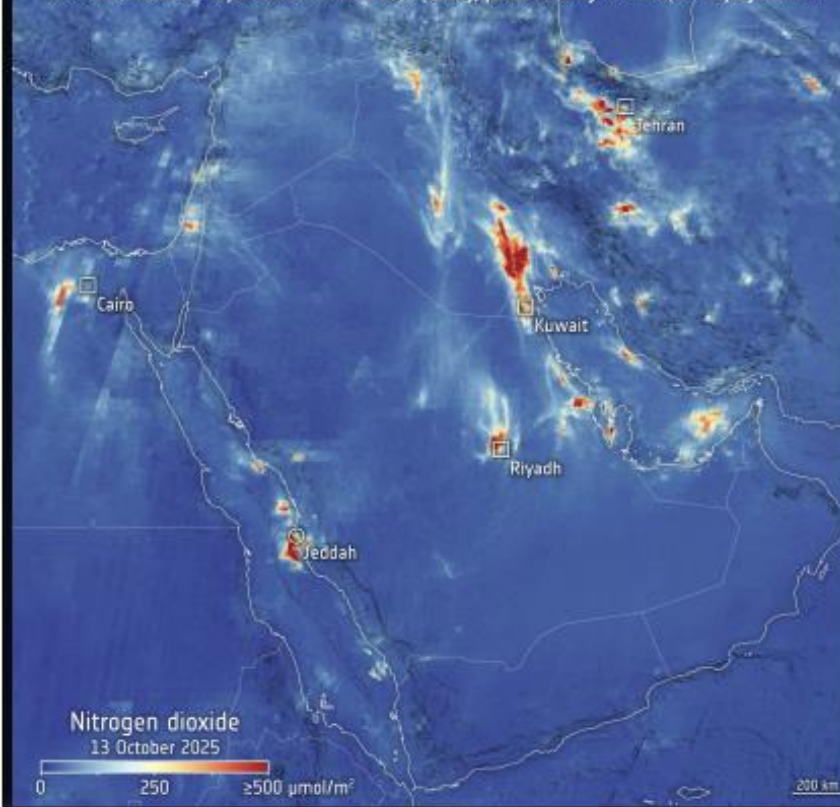


Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2025), processed by ESA/SA/T/TrOpSys/DIRA



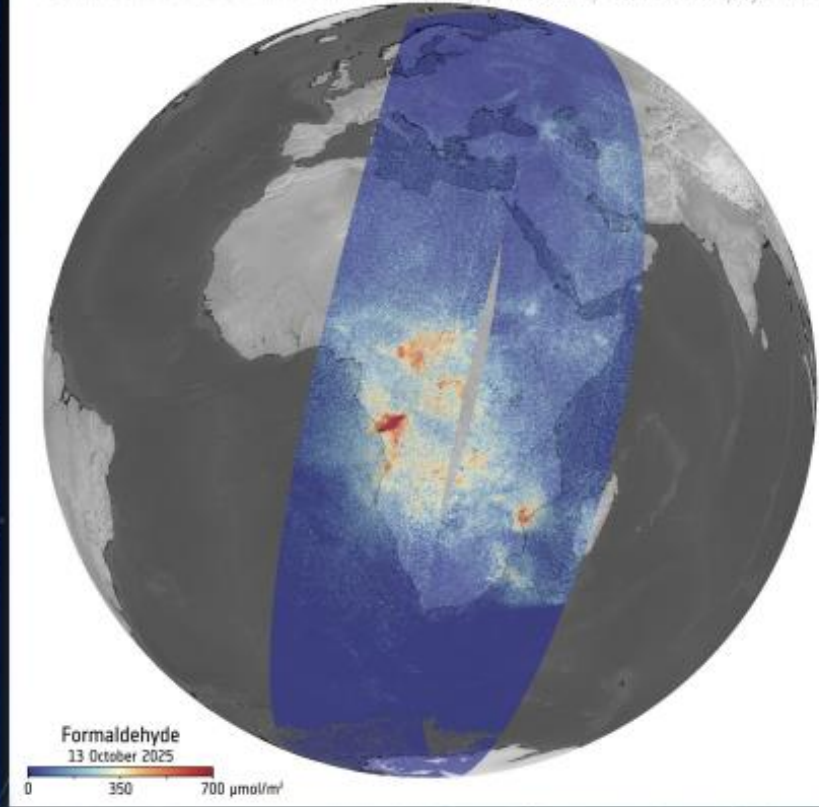
Global map of ozone, captured on 13 October 2025

Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2025), processed by ESA/SA/T/TrOpSys/KNMI



Vertical column density of nitrogen dioxide over the Middle East, captured on 13 October 2025

Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2025), processed by ESA/SA/T/TrOpSys/DIRA



Vertical column density of formaldehyde over parts of Africa, captured on 13 October 2025

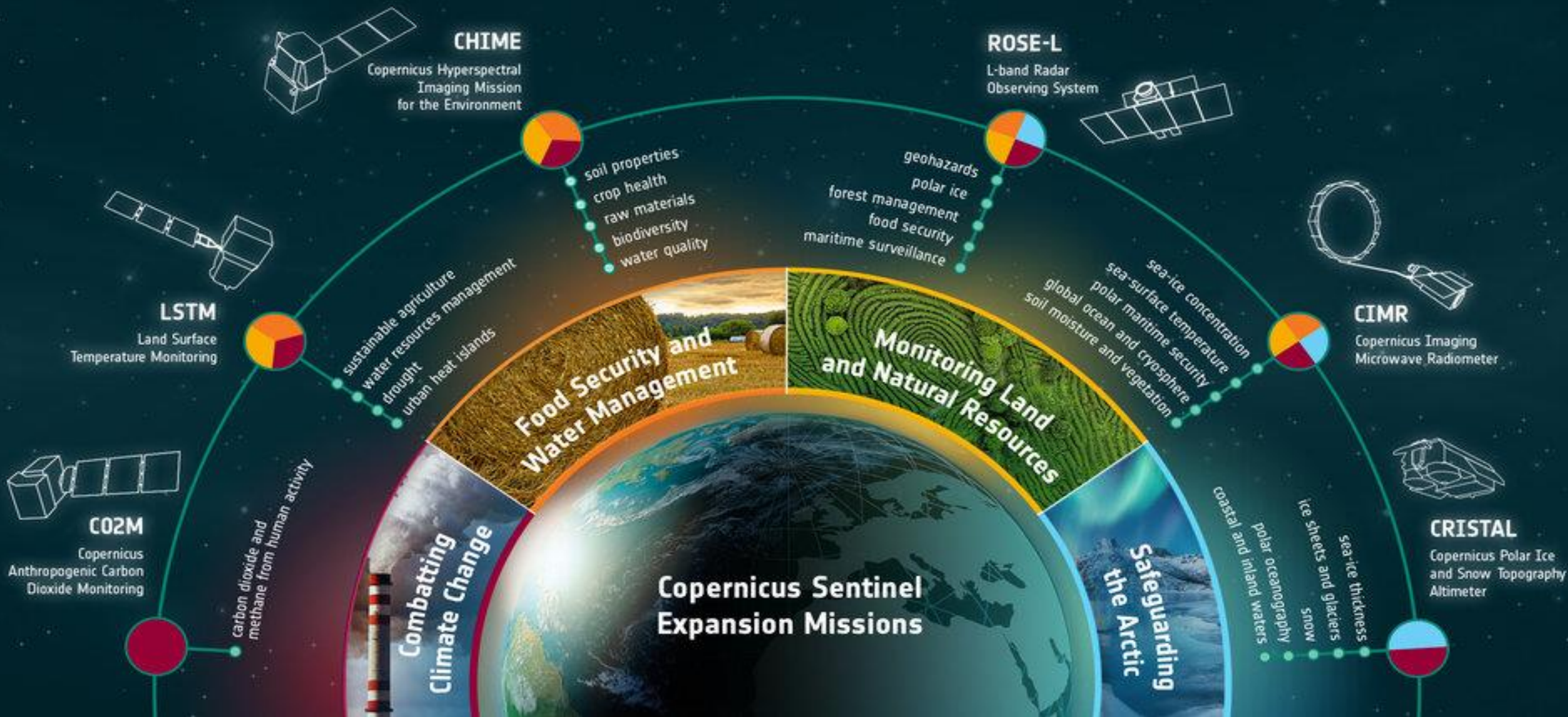




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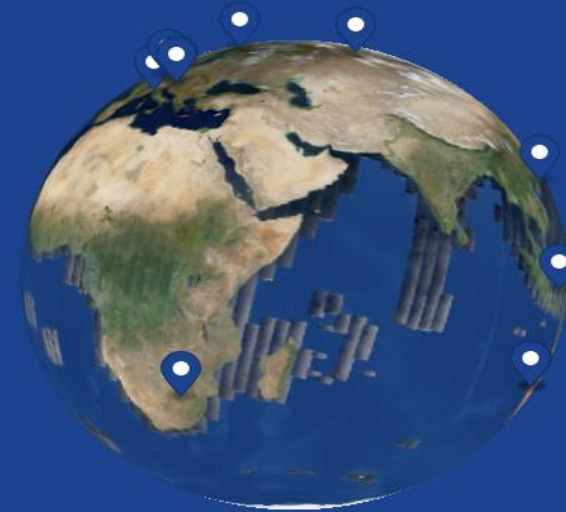


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