

# **ESA's Earth Observation Programmes**

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### **ESA FACTS AND FIGURES**



- 50 years celebration in 2014
- 20 Member States
- Five establishments in Europe, about 2200 staff
- 4,3 billion Euro budget (2013)
- Over 70 satellites designed, tested and operated in flight
- 17 scientific satellites in operation
- Six types of launcher developed



### **ESA'S LOCATIONS**





European Space Agency

### ACTIVITIES



ESA is one of the few space agencies in the world to combine responsibility in nearly all areas of space activity.

- Space science
- Human spaceflight
- Exploration
- Earth observation
- Launchers

- Navigation
- Telecommunications
- Technology
- Operations



### **A New Era of Earth Observation**



#### EO: Tool to tackle global challenges

- Reliable assessment of human activity
- Coverage over space and time
- Long observation intervals
- Large scale observations

#### First EO Revolution:

- WWW, broadband data networks, GIS, desktop processing
  Second EO Revolution:
- cloud computing, crowd sourcing, big data, new generation mapping tools



#### **ESA Earth Observation Programmes**





### **Copernicus: A New Generation of Data Sources**





- Copernicus is a European space flagship programme led by the European Union
- ESA coordinates the space component
- Copernicus provides decade-long observations for operational, science and commercial users
- Sentinel-1A launched 3 April 2014



# Launch Sentinel-1A



- 3 April 2014
- Kourou spaceport
- Soyuz-2 rocket
- New era of Earth observation

# **Sentinel-1A in Soyuz**





# Launch + 3 min 30 seconds



# Moments of tension ...





European Space Agency

# **Unfolding in Orbit**





# **Sentinel-1: Mission Profile**



- Sun-synchronous orbit at 693 km altitude
- Inclination: 98.18°
- 7 years lifetime
- Consumables for 12 years
- Mean LST: 18:00h at ascending node
- 6-day repeat cycle at Equator (with 2 satellites)
- 175 orbits/cycle
- 96h operative autonomy

# **First Images of Sentinel-1A**





# Harbour of Antwerp, Belgium





## **Past Work with Similar Data**



- Unique (first ever) combination of S1A stripmap and TerraSAR-X SAR data provides first map of Austfonna ice speed in 2014
- Data show that glacier at Cap Mohn has experienced a rapid acceleration



Ice Speed (kilometres per year)

Credit: N. Gourmelen, University of Edinburgh

## **Vegetation Generation**





# **Sentinel Deployment Schedule**





European Space Agency



# Sentinel Data Policy = FREE and OPEN access

- ESA Sentinel Data Policy (Sep 2013) and EU Delegated Act on Copernicus Data and Information Policy (Dec 2013)
- > Main principles of Sentinel data policy:
  - > **Open** access to Sentinel data by anybody and for any use
  - Free of charge data licenses
  - Restrictions possible due to technical limitations or for security reasons

# **Some Sentinel Application Areas**







Sea ice extent



Ice speed



Atmosphere

Ocean colour

### **Science – the Earth Explorers**





#### **Swarm Science Objectives**





### **SMOS Measurements**





## **CryoSat: The Ice Mission**





# GOCE: Geoid in 2D





### **GOCE:** Seismometer in Space





### **GOCE Re-Entry 11 November 2013**





## **Meteorological missions**



- ESA develops prototype satellites and, on behalf of EUMETSAT, procures recurrent satellites
- EUMETSAT procures launchers and LEOP services
- EUMETSAT operates the satellites
- Currently Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) missions in GEO and MetOp missions in LEO
- MeteoSat Third Generation (MTG) and MetOp Second Generation under development





