Considering that the total data produced by the ALOS sensors on a daily basis (around 700 Gbyte) was beyond the capabilities of any single agency to attempt to manage, but that there was world-wide interest in the use of ALOS data, JAXA has established the concept of the ALOS Data Nodes with local archives, as a mechanism for sharing the processing and distribution load.

Each ALOS Data Node (ADN) was managed by a partner organization or consortium, by agreement with JAXA, and undertake to participate in certain tasks relating to the reception and near real time processing (in some cases), off-line processing, promotion, distribution, and archiving of ALOS data in support of the data users within their region, as well as of research study of ALOS data. Each Node is associated with a geographical zone, which defines the physical location of the ALOS users that the Node has mandate to support as an ADN partner.

The European and Africa Region (ADEN zone) is defined by JAXA as extending:
- Longitude: from 30° West to 60° East (the western boundary shall include Greenland, the eastern boundary shall include all countries which are fully west of 60° East, including Iran but excluding Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan)
- Latitude: from 85° North to 60° South

The following picture provides a sketch of the ALOS Data Node (ADN) zone definition.