

## SAOCOM the Argentinean constellation with an Italian twist

11 February 2022

The SAOCOM (Argentinean Microwave Observation Satellites) were developed to satisfy user needs in Argentina, demanded by society and economic and productive sectors, as well as by the National Space Programme.

The main mission goals consist of supporting agriculture, hydrology—including floods and other emergencies— to generate operative soil moisture maps; and to exploit SAR interferometric capability.

Although the main objectives of SAOCOM were to satisfy Argentinean needs, an Italian-Argentine agreement has allowed access to data in the European and Mediterranean basin.



SAOCOM is a joint project of CONAE and ASI (Italian Space Agency). To this effect, an agreement called SIASGE (Italian-Argentine System of Satellites for Emergency Management) has been signed under which the satellites in the Argentinian SAOCOM system will operate jointly with the Italian COSMO-SkyMed constellation in X-band, to provide frequent information relevant for emergency management.

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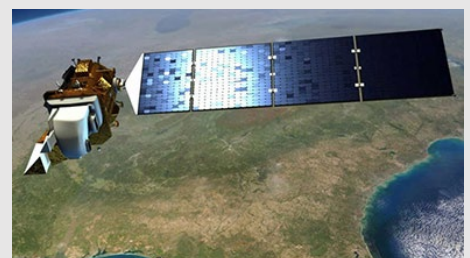
## LATEST DATA NEWS

### New Landsat 8 Collection-2 Level 1 and Level 2 data now available

3 February 2022

Within ESA's Landsat offering, access to the European coverage of Landsat 8 Collection-2 Level 1 and Level 2 data is now available.

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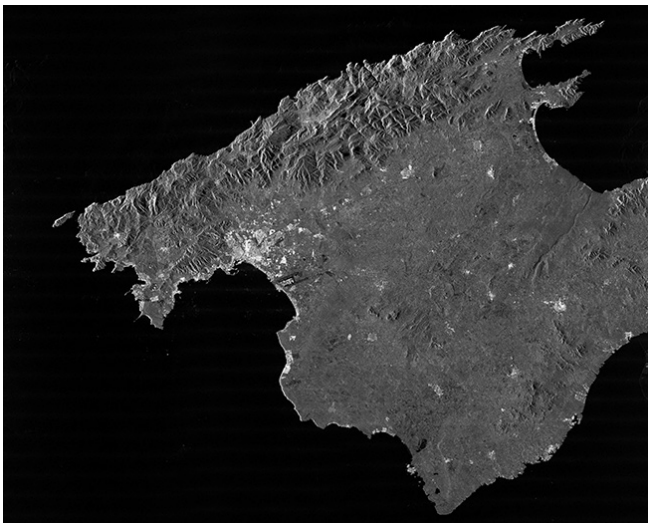
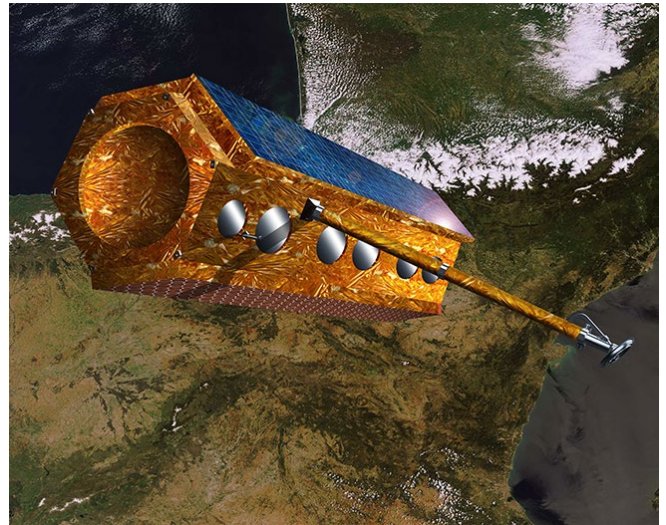


Highlight on:

## PAZ – Spain's radar success

17 February 2022

One way of collecting images in unfavourable weather is to use Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). PAZ is one such Earth observation mission capable of delivering all-weather imagery thanks to its X-band SAR. Earth observation images from PAZ can be acquired day or night since the microwave radiation on which they are based are unaffected by darkness, clouds or precipitation.




PAZ (Spanish for “peace”) is part of ESA's Third Party Missions (TPM) programme, built primarily to serve the Spanish Government's defence and security needs.

The satellite also provides Earth observation capabilities for multiple civilian applications, from maritime monitoring and infrastructure planning, to high-resolution mapping.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Aeolus 3rd Anniversary Conference**  
28/03/2022  
Registration deadline is 11 March

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**living planet symposium** BONN 23-27 May 2022  
TAKING THE PULSE OF OUR PLANET FROM SPACE  
23/05/2022  
Living Planet Symposium  
Registration is open

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**ACIX-III and CMX-II Workshop**  
20/06/2022  
Registration for the exercises is open

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### Focus on: Infographic

## SAOCOM infographic

7 February 2022

Learn more about the SAOCOM mission, part of ESA's Third Party Missions programme, in this new infographic.

**About SAOCOM**  
[asi.it/en/earth-science/saocom/](http://asi.it/en/earth-science/saocom/)

**What**  
The SAOCOM (Argentinean Microwave Observation Satellite) mission, owned by CONAE (Argentinean Space Agency), is composed of twin satellites, each carrying a polarimetric L-band SAR instrument.  
In agreement with ASI (Italian Space Agency), ESA advertises the availability of SAOCOM data acquired over the ASI Zone of Exclusivity (Europe and Mediterranean basin).  
As part of ESA's TPM Programme, data from outside Europe will be made available to European scientists via CONAE.

**When**  
Launched on  
**7 OCT 2018**   **30 AUG 2020**  
SAOCOM-1A   SAOCOM-1B  
SAOCOM-1A launched on 07 October 2018 and -1B on 30 August 2020, from US Vandenberg Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral respectively.

**Built By**  
The development of SAOCOM was led by CONAE, who contracted INVAP (Rio Negro, Argentina) to build the satellites. More than 80 companies and institutions in Argentina supported the development. The mission has a design lifetime of five years.

**Objectives**  
The overall objective of the mission is providing an effective Earth observation and disaster monitoring capability, with the main aim of satisfying the needs of Argentinean society, economic and productive sectors, and the National Space Programme. These goals support:

- Agriculture** including soil moisture maps generation capability
- Hydrology** Including floods and emergencies
- Exploiting SAR interferometric capability

**Applications**  
SAOCOM's applications include providing timely information in support of:

- Natural and anthropogenic disaster management** (such as regional flooding, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, forest fires, etc.)
- Conducting monitoring services for agriculture, mining and ocean applications - including monitoring surveys of Antarctica (study of continental glacier evolution, global change indicators, etc.)

**Data Access:** [earth.esa.int/eogateway/catalog/saocom-data-products](http://earth.esa.int/eogateway/catalog/saocom-data-products)  
**For more information visit:** [argentina.gob.ar/ciencia/conae/misiones-espaciales/saocom](http://argentina.gob.ar/ciencia/conae/misiones-espaciales/saocom)

**Data and Users**  
Data are used by several institutional and commercial users worldwide.

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