Proceedings of

MERIS User Workshop

10 – 13 November 2003
ESA-ESRIN, Frascati, Italy

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Foreword

The MERIS Users Workshop took place at ESRIN from 10th to 13th November 2003. It was the first user-oriented event of this type organised by ESA (after a number of dedicated MERIS calibration and validation workshops) which brought together ESA Principal Investigators and co-investigators, scientists and students using MERIS data – across the fields of ocean colour, land applications and atmospheric science.

The workshop provided the 180 participants (16 countries were represented) with an opportunity to learn more about the most recent processing algorithms and the quality of the derived products and to gain understanding of the Envisat user services and MERIS data distribution activities and constraints.

In addition, the workshop provided a unique forum for investigators to present their latest results from on-going AO research projects, discuss various aspects of MERIS data analysis and interpretation, and assess the usefulness of available data analysis tools.

The workshop was organised in the form of thematic plenary sessions allowing 20 minutes for presentations and 5 minutes for discussion. A chaired poster session was also organised in which participants could briefly summarize in a 3 minutes presentation the main contents of their poster. 76 presentations (47 orals and 29 posters) were given during the workshop ranging from pure research including calibration and validation, to demonstration of applications and development of services. The workshop included a working session for open source developers on the BEAM (Meris & AATSR) user toolbox.

Each workshop session was followed by a round table in which attendees were able to express their views on MERIS products, user services and data distribution and take part in discussions on specific issues raised during the presentations.

On the last day of the workshop, three parallel thematic working sessions on ocean, land, and atmosphere were organized, to discuss relevant issues of the MERIS data exploitation pertaining to the session topics and to draft recommendations for the development of new algorithms and products in future. These sessions were chaired by members from the Scientific Committee and facilitated by a secretary responsible for ensuring all issues raised were recorded.

The main issues addressed during the discussions were: 1) strong need for the continuity of the MERIS mission, 2) high demand for provision of a range of level 3 products, 3) continuation of the Cal/Val activities throughout the Envisat mission for continuous improvement of the standard ESA MERIS products. As a measure of the success, the User Workshop at ESRIN showed a rapid increase of the use of MERIS data by the scientific community.

The enclosed proceedings contain the results presented at the workshop in the form of full-length papers and the recommendations brought up during the round table and the thematic splinter sessions. The submitted papers confirm the outstanding capabilities of the MERIS measurements for scientific research and applications development in the field of ocean colour, land applications and atmospheric science and summarise how they compare with other optical sensor data. A web site was prepared for the workshop and submitted papers are available on-line at URL:
http://envisat.esa.int/workshops/meris03/

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all attendees for their effort in attending, presenting and contributing to the workshop. I should also thank the organising committee, the scientific committee, the session chairmen and secretaries, the ESRIN local administration, the SERCO support team and ESA staff who contributed to the success of this event. I look forward to seeing all of you at the ENVISAT Symposium in Salzburg (A) from 6th to 10th September 2004.

Dr. Peter Regner
(ESA/ESRIN Workshop Local Organiser)

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