

Overview of Optical Instrument technologies for Future Earth Observation missions

Arnaud Hélière, European Space Agency

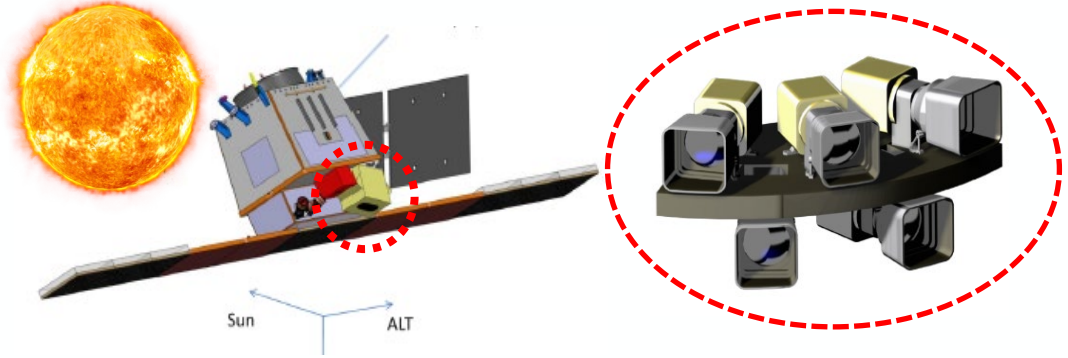
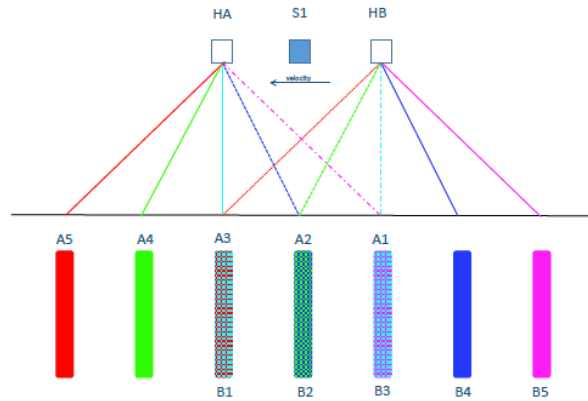
Head of the Optical Instruments section, Future Missions and Architecture Department (EOP)

Living Planet Symposium
23-27 May 2022

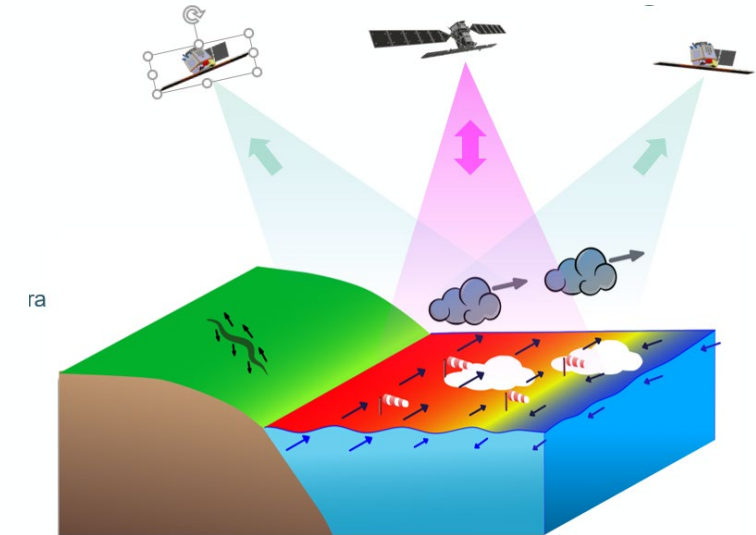
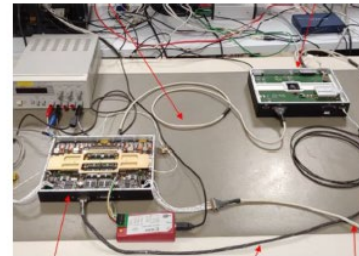
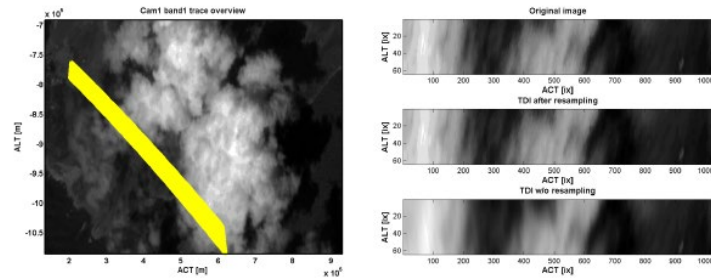
Science driven Missions: Earth Explorers, SCOUT, opportunity missions



Thermal Infrared payload: up to 5 views/4 bands camera supporting Sea Surface Temperature retrieval and cloud motion vector



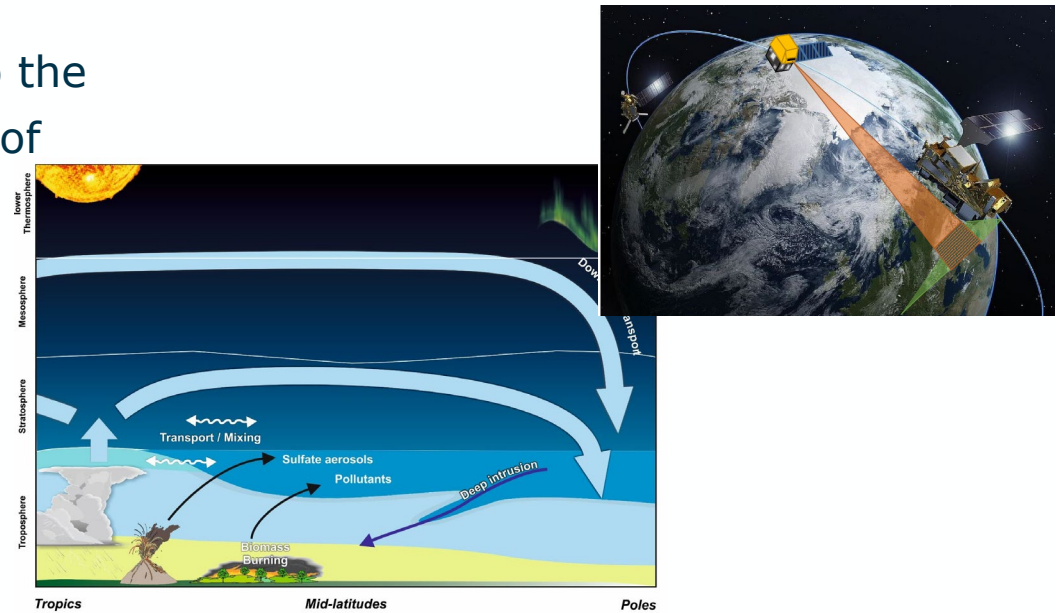
Pre-development with detector testing, filter mounting and processing algorithm



Industrial teams involved: OHB, Leonardo, SSTL, ABB

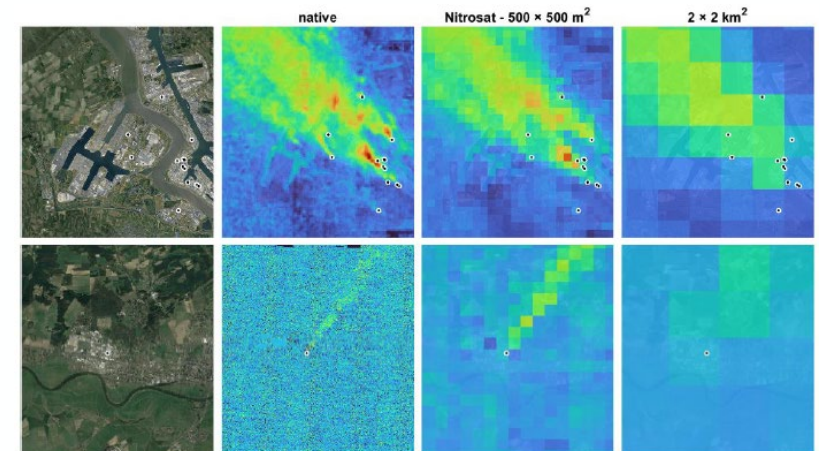
CAIRT Tomography by infra-red limb imaging

- Quantify atmosphere circulation from the upper troposphere to the lower thermosphere by providing high-resolution observations of temperature and long-lived trace gases
- Limb viewing
- Imaging Fourier-Transform Spectrometer
- Measuring in the mid-thermal IR with high spectral resolution



NITROSAT

- Mapping reactive nitrogen at the landscape scale
- Making measurements of NO₂ and NH₃ at sub-km resolution
- Monthly seasonal patterns
- NH₃: Infrared imaging Fourier Transform Spectrometer (900-1000 cm⁻¹ spectral range)
- NO₂ : Visible Imaging Pushbroom Spectrometer NO₂ (400-460nm spectral range)



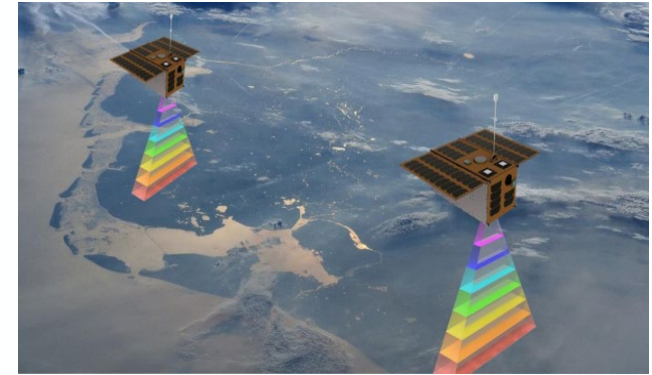
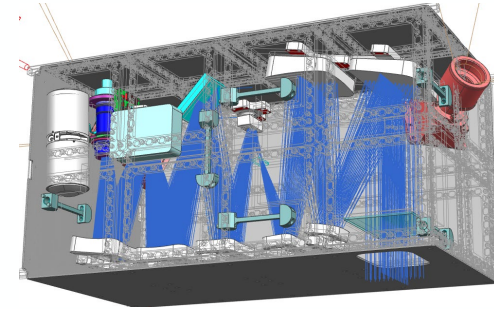
Technologies required: LWIR matrix detectors with fast read-out and large FWC, broad band coatings and dichroics, Interferometers

SCOUT missions: TANGO and CUBEMAP payloads

session B7.01.1 Scout: ESA NewSpace Science missions

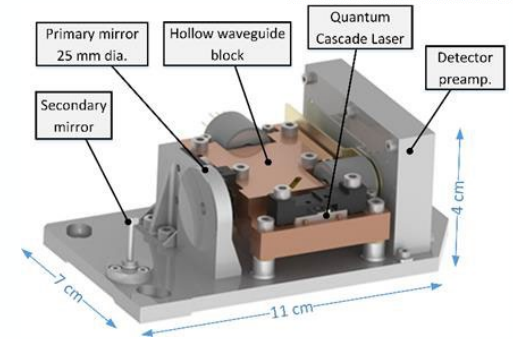
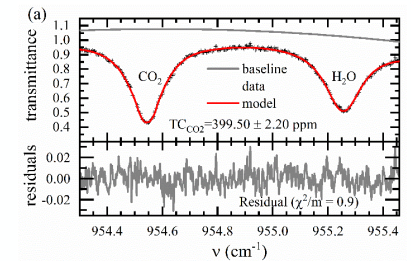
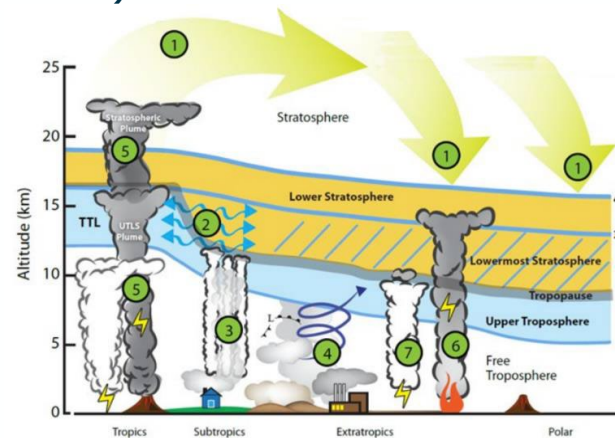
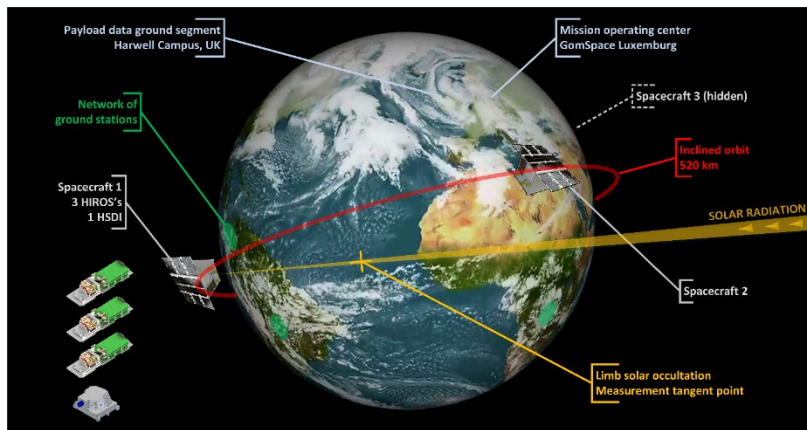
❑ TANGO (ISIS/TNO/SRON/KNMI) risk retirement activities on detector and instrument

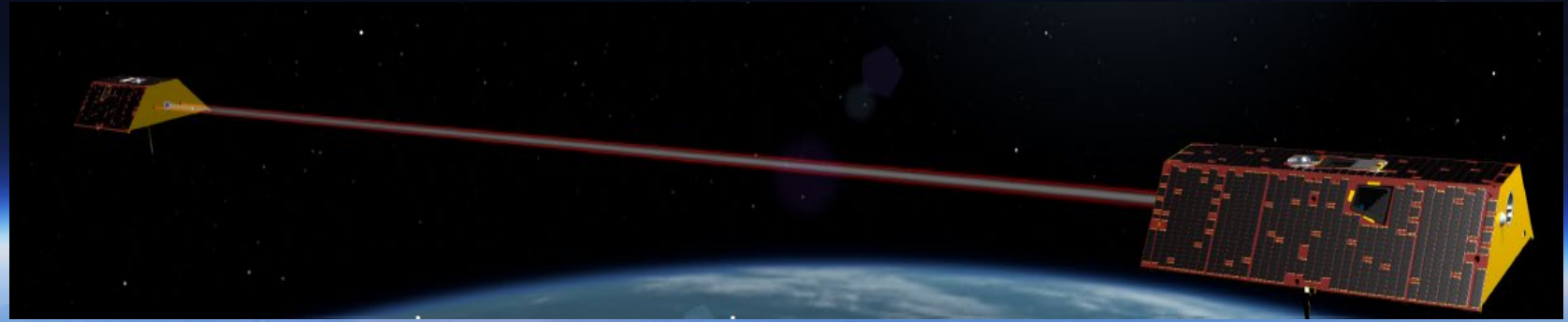
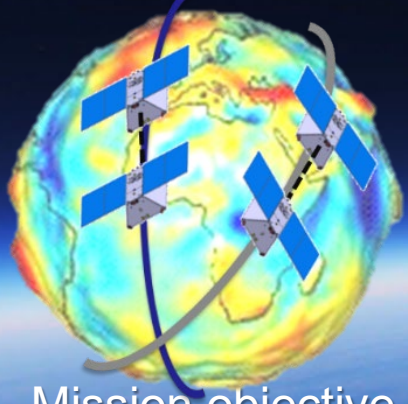
- TANGO-Carbon measures CO₂/CH₄
- Imaging spectrometer in the 1.6 μm band
- TANGO-Nitro measures NO₂
- Imaging spectrometer in the 400-500 nm band



❑ CUBEMAP (GOMSPACE/RAL): first SCOUT mission selected for implementation

- Thermal infrared laser heterodyne spectro-radiometer (LHR) and Sun disc imager
- 3 satellites (orbit 28 deg inclination, 520km altitude)

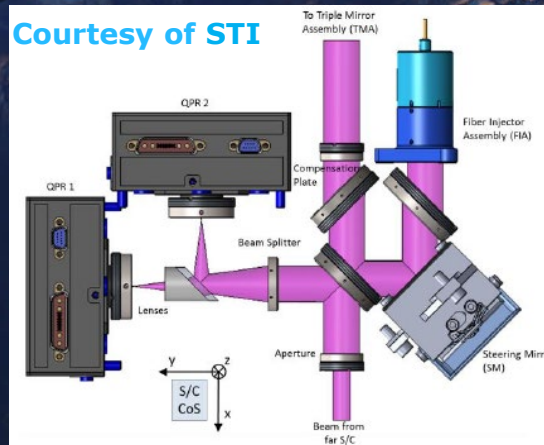




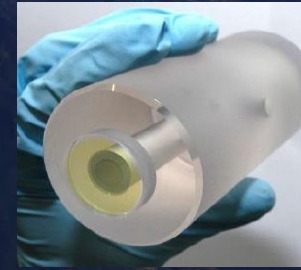
- Mission objective to measure the geoid with 1 mm accuracy at 3-day intervals at <500 km spatial resolution, with 200-km inter-satellite distance, over a time span of 10 years
- Cooperation with DLR and NASA
- Accurate instruments (laser metrology, accelerometers), satellite drag free control
- Pre-development of Laser Tracking Instrument and accelerometers



Courtesy of TESAT



Courtesy of STI



Courtesy of Airbus DS and NPL

Static FTS instrument for CO2, CH4 or O2 detection

Two studies initiated in 2020: Carbon-HIGS (by TNO, NL) and Carbon-CGI (by TAS, FR)

Objectives: assess feasibility of static-FTS concepts, as compact instruments for small satellite for

- GHG concentration at **high spatial resolution** (~200m)
- Quantification of emission from **small sources**
- Working as an **auxiliary instrument** of CO2M, **or stand-alone.**

Carbon HIGS (TNO, NL)

NIR band: for H2O vapour, SWIR1 band for CO2

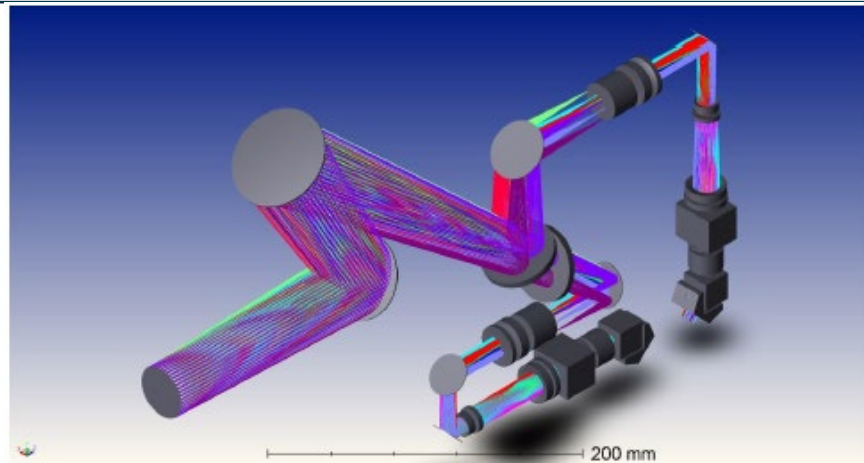


Figure 2, concept optical design with a telescope and two HIGS interferometer channel

Carbon CGI (TAS-FR)

VIS band for NO2
 NIR band for O2 surface pressure
 SWIR1-SWIR2 band for CO2 and CH4

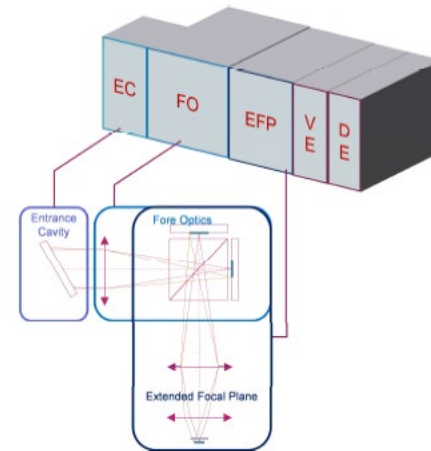
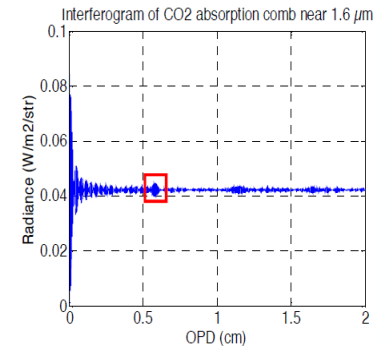
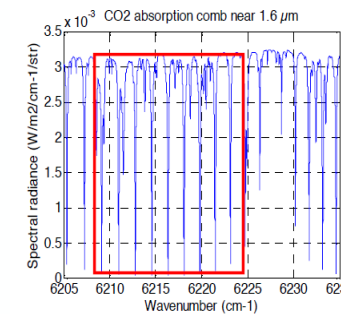


Figure 1: Five volumes architecture concept

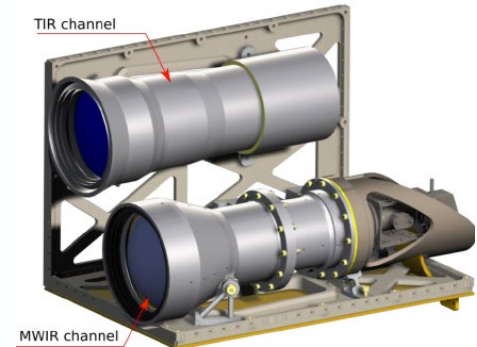


HOW: measuring Partially Scanned interferograms (PSI) using orbital motion to introduce Optical Path Difference

Future EO passive optical missions for small sats

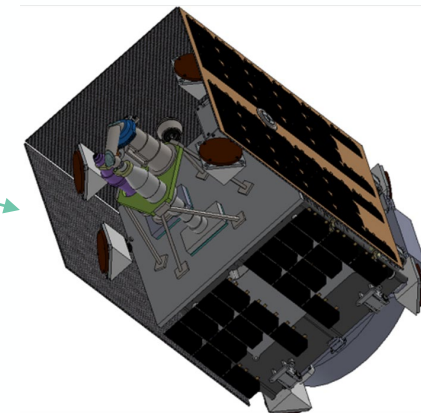
Two studies completed (Q3-2020):

- Review optical technology (optics, detectors, Cal/Val) usable in small sats and commercial space
- Derive instruments and non-commercial mission concepts (operational, scientific, detection applications)
- Several promising concepts defined, needing further system and prototyping work



Cosine TIR instrument for multi-angular LST

| Cosine, ISIS, TuDelft (NL) study | SSTL, Univ. Leicester (UK) study |
|---|--|
| Multi-angular LST MWIR+TIR, 3x 26 kg nanosat | Subdaily ocean colour VNIR, 16x 36 kg microsat |
| Aerosol Properties VNIR Polarimeter, 4x 8 kg Cubesat | Subdaily Aerosol PM2.5/AOD VNIR polarimeter, 16x 36 kg microsat |
| Atmospheric Ammonia (NH3) (TIR HS, 1 x 68 kg microsat) | Subdaily SST/LST TIR, 16x 36 kg microsat |



VNIR+Satellite for subdaily ocean colour (SSTL)

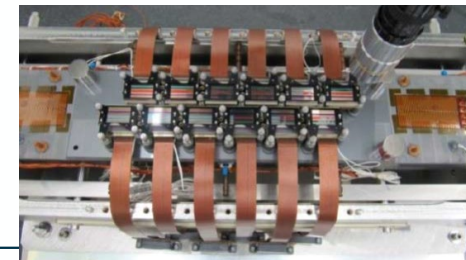
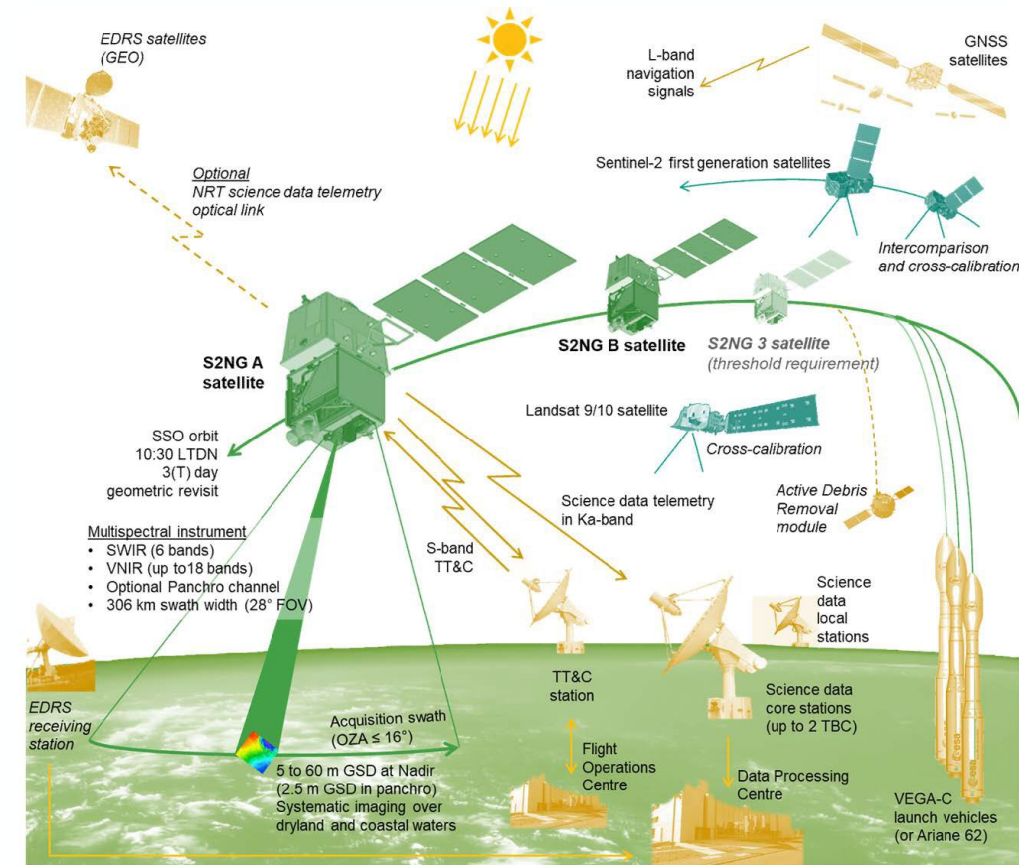
Copernicus

Sentinel 2 NG phase 0

- Phase 0 running with OHB and ADS
- Significant increase in requirements (spatial resolution *2 - up to 24 spectral bands)

| Band | SSD Goal @ SSP [m] | SSD Threshold @ SSP [m] | Center Wavelength λ [nm] | Bandwidth $\Delta\lambda$ [nm] | L_{min} | L_{ref} | L_{high} | L_{max} | SNR@Lref Goal | SNR@Lref Threshold |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 0 (G) | 10 | 10 | 410/412 | 15 | | 45,00 | | 501,00 | 100 | (TBD) |
| 1 (T) | 30 | 60 | 443 | 20 | 15,79 | 129,11 | n/a | 587,87 | 894 | 129 |
| 1a (G) | 5 | 10 | 470/473 | 20 | 14,29/13,99 | 137,5/137,04 | n/a | 643,10/643,53 | (TBD) | (TBD) |
| 2 (T) | 5 | 10 | 490 | 65 | 11,70 | 128,00 | n/a | 615,48 | 162 | 154 |
| 2 new | 10 | 20 | 510 | 10 | 17,45 | 44,39 | 449,60 | 562,0 | | |
| 2a (G) | 10 | 10 | 531 | 10 | 8,11 | 110,00 | | 572,00 | (TBD) | (TBD) |
| 3 (T) | 5 | 10 | 560 | 35 | 6,49 | 128,00 | n/a | 559,01 | 189 | 168 |
| 3a (G) | 5 | 10 | 620 | 20 | 4,17 | 21,50 | n/a | 397,00 | (TBD) | 100 |
| 3b (G) | 5 | 10 | 650 | 20 | | 23,00 | | 380,00 | 100 | (TBD) |
| 4 (T) | 5 | 10 | 665 | 30 | 3,31 | 108,00 | n/a | 484,13 | 175 | 142 |
| 5 (T) | 10 | 10 | 705 | 15 | 2,61 | 74,60 | n/a | 449,55 | 192 | 117 |
| 6 (T) | 10 | 10 | 740 | 15 | 2,06 | 68,23 | n/a | 412,92 | 169 | 89 |
| 6a (G) | 10 | 10 | 763 | 10 | 1,39 | 36,00 | | 284,00 | (TBD) | (TBD) |
| 7 (T) | 10 | 10 | 783 | 20 | 1,67 | 66,70 | n/a | 387,08 | 161 | 105 |
| 8 (T) | 5 | 10 | 842 | 115 | 0,95 | 103,00 | n/a | 307,80 | 174 | 174 |
| 8a (T) | 5 | 10 | 865 | 20 | 0,95 | 52,39 | n/a | 307,80 | 117 | 72 |
| 9 (T) | 30 | 60 | 945 | 20 | 0,51 | 8,77 | n/a | 232,91 | 135 | 114 |
| 9a (G) | 10 | 10 | 985 | 20 | | 14,10 | | 220,00 | 100 | |
| 10 (T) | 30 | 60 | 1375 | 30 | 0,06 | 6,00 | n/a | 45,00 | 301 | 50 |
| 11 (T) | 10 | 10 | 1610 | 90 | 0,40 | 4,00 | 32,00 | 69,78 | 133 | 100 |
| 12a (G) | 10 | 20 | 2130 | 50 | 0,16 | 2,12 | (TBD) | 23,97 | (TBD) | 132 |
| 12b (G) | 10 | 20 | 2210 | 50 | 0,13 | 1,79 | (TBD) | 20,77 | (TBD) | 132 |
| 12c (G) | 10 | 20 | 2260 | 50 | 0,12 | 1,65 | (TBD) | 18,71 | (TBD) | 132 |
| 12 (T) | 10 | 10 | 2190 | 180 | 0,10 | 1,70 | 11,00 | 24,60 | 141 | 100 |

- Technology pre-development: telescope, free form mirrors (TDE in 2022/23), detectors (both VIS and SWIR), filters



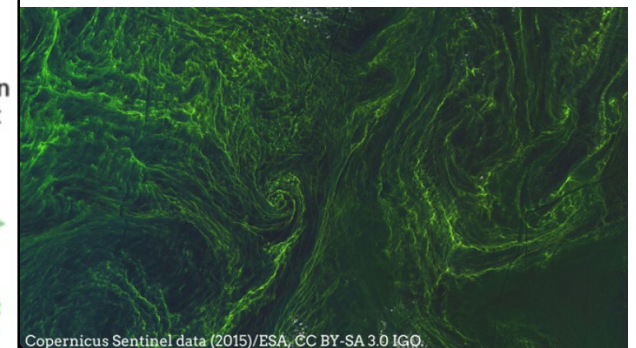
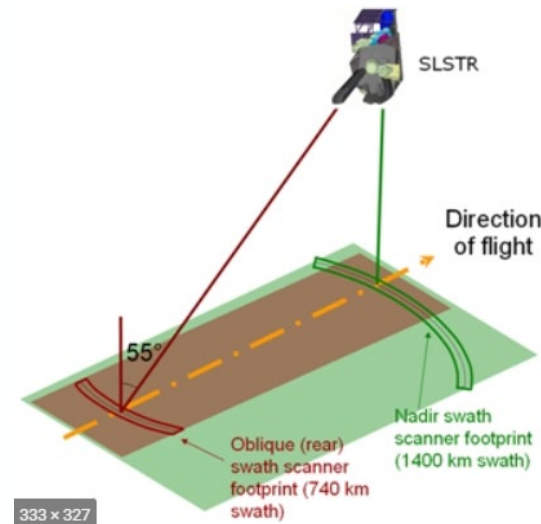
- Phase 0 running with OHB/ADS and TAS/Leonardo

AOLCI

- Spatial resolution improved by at least factor 2 (150m and target 100m)
- Additional bands in VIS/UV (detection of Algae blooms) and SWIR bands (atm. correction)
- SNR > current generation in-orbit

ASLSTR

- Spatial resolution improved by factor >2
- Technology pre-development foreseen: telescope, detectors, filters



Copernicus Sentinel data (2015)/ESA, CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO.

Meteorology

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Aeolus 2

session B5.01.4 Future Meteorological Missions : AWS & Aeolus-2

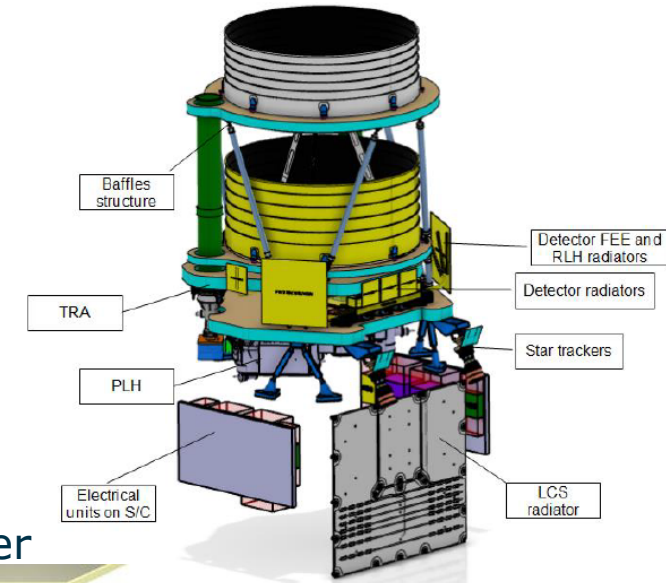
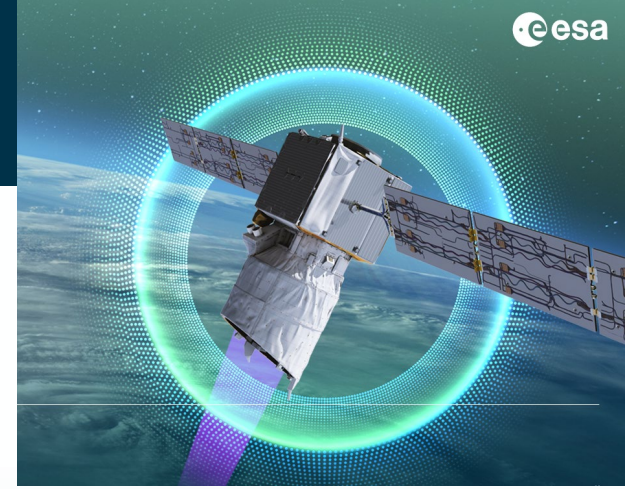
Building on the success of the Aeolus mission utilising the heritage and lessons learned from both the Aeolus development and in-orbit operations and performance;

Having a mission lifetime of 10-15 years utilising 2 spacecrafts;

Increasing robustness and operability required for an operational mission;

Incorporating recommendations on observational requirements for future DWL missions from the Aeolus Scientific Advisory Group

- ✓ Instrument Consolidation study with Airbus DS-SAS
- ✓ 2 Transmitter Engineering model developments with Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology and Leonardo
- ✓ Detector Engineering model development with Teledyne E2V



Commercially driven optical payloads and smallsats



HAPS



smallSats



constellations



AI for EO

Incubed: some examples of upstream projects with payload development

session E1.05.1 New Space missions in InCubed



Mission and Agile Nanosatellite for Terrestrial Imagery Services

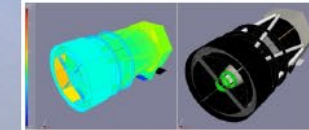
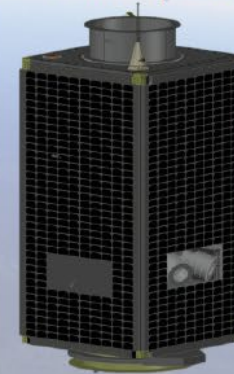


Specific focus on Oil and Gas applications
3m GSD (SR)
12U Cubesat with
VIS-NIR Push broom Multispectral 4 bands Dual
Telescope - Onboard Super Resolution and Cloud
Detection

Open Cosmos- SATLANTIS

SAT4EO

AOCS and Instrument for
Very High Resolution imagery from state of the art
small satellite platform

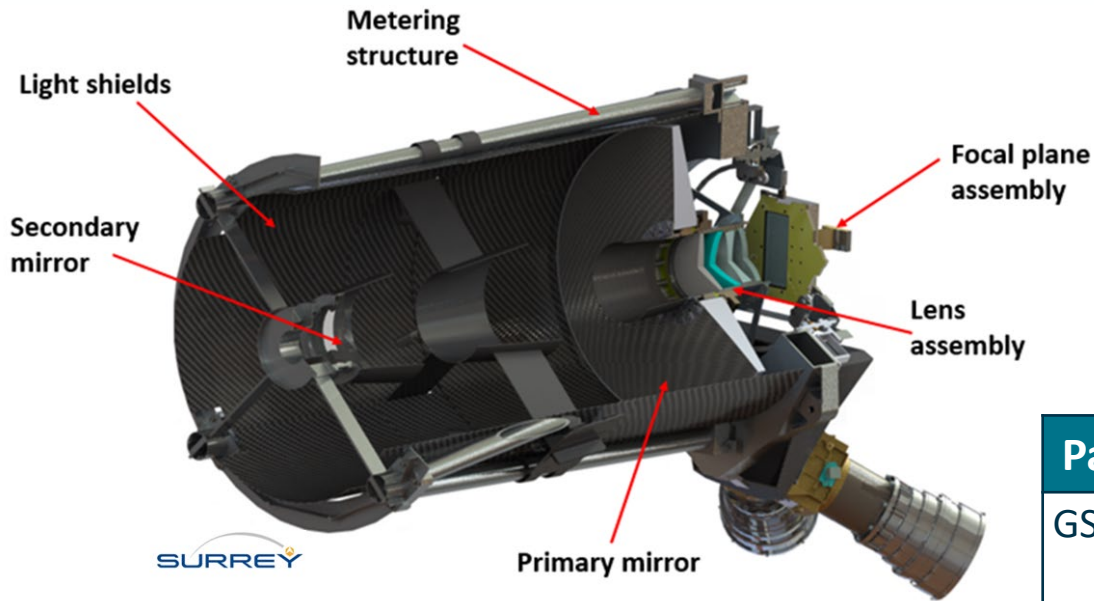


VHR System, 0.6 m native GSD with Super
Resolution capabilities (0.3 m), Enhanced AOCS
100-200 Kg S/C AOCS Suite – Compact VIS-NIR
VHR Telescope (new Sensor Development) –
Dedicated ground Exploitation Platform

Deimos- SSTL

Incubated: SAT4 EO Precision payload

Precision is a very high resolution multispectral imager which utilizes a novel CCD-in-CMOS time delay and integration (TDI) line scan detector and innovative opto-mechanical techniques to achieve cutting edge performance at a market-leading size, weight and power.

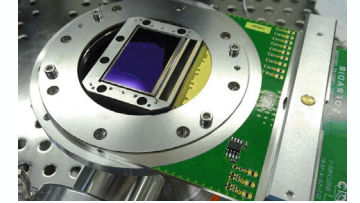


| Parameter | Specification |
|-------------|---|
| GSD | 0.6 m PAN (< 0.5 m with $\frac{1}{2}$ pixel shift) 1.2 m multispectral |
| Swath | 9.5 km |
| Bands | PAN, R, G, B, NIR |
| Sensor Type | CCD-in-CMOS TDI detector |
| SNR | >100 |



Future meteo missions both in LEO and GEO

- new IR detectors based on Superlattice technologies (MWIR->TIR)
- improved MCT detectors,
- IR coatings/dichroics,

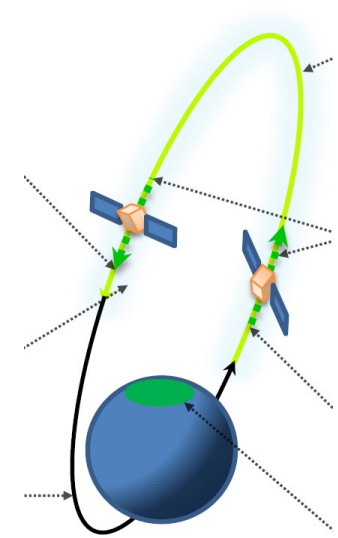


Risk retirement activities **for Night Light Remote Sensing** following non selected proposals such as N8 or Galene, but also addressing needs for Nordic Arctic Imaging

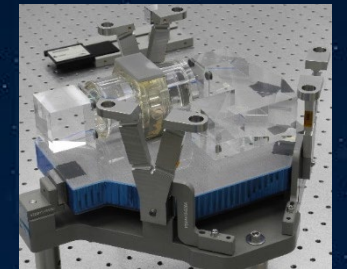
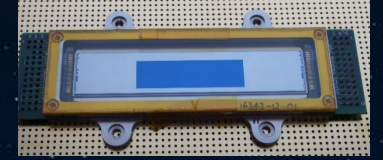
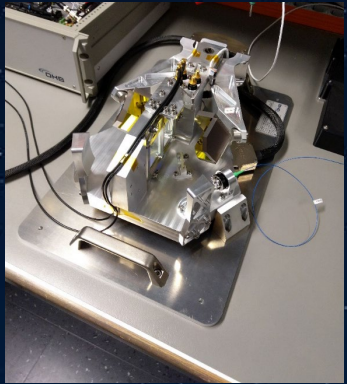
- Day and Night Band imager
- High dynamic, high sensitivity VIS detector

Enabling technologies for **compact instruments**

- Deployable telescopes,
- Active pointing and WFE corrections,
- Digital LOS stabilisation
- Miniaturising instrument concepts



➤ Activities to be funded through Future EO and TDE/GSTP



Thank you.

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