

How ESA's Third Party Missions support companies around Europe

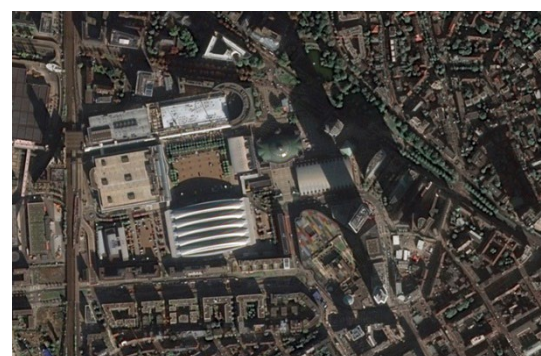
09 December 2024

Europe needs a strong commercial space sector to drive innovation and economic growth. One way ESA supports this ambition is through its Third Party Missions (TPMs) programme.

Over the past 45 years, ESA's TPM programme has supported dozens of companies within ESA Member States. It currently sources data from more than 60 missions, which are made available to users for research and development purposes as well as business incubation activities. By doing so, ESA promotes the availability of commercial Earth observation (EO) data, including in emerging data domains, so that they are offered through a single programme, making them more accessible to many users worldwide.

Discussions at the EO Commercialisation Forum, held in Frankfurt on 27-28 November 2024, highlighted the important role of TPM data in boosting Europe's space sector.

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ESA's VH-RODA workshop lands key innovative results

16 December 2024

Held between 2 and 6 December 2024, at ESA's Earth Observation centre in Frascati, Italy, the fifth edition of ESA's Very High-Resolution Radar & Optical Data Assessment workshop reached new levels of success.

Building on the achievements of the past four editions, this latest VH-RODA workshop provided an open forum for participants to discuss current and future data quality and Calibration-Validation (Cal/Val) activities, related to very high resolution (VHR) optical, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and, for the first time, atmospheric data and products.

It brought together New Space companies, world-renowned experts and various International Space/Research Agencies (ESA, ASI, CNES, UKSA, NASA, USGS, CSIRO, EC-JRC).

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Highlight on:

CryoSat helps crack the last great frontier: sea ice in Canada's Northwest Passage

13 December 2024

Canada's Northwest Passage is widely known as one of the last great frontiers. 120 years since Amundsen finally cracked its icy narrows, it remains a challenge even today.

Amy Swiggs, a PhD student at Northumbria University and the UK Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling, took on the challenge by measuring the sea ice of this complex Arctic region using ESA's CryoSat and NASA's Landsat 8.

The precarious Northwest passage

Many books and documentaries have been produced that detail the terror of getting stuck in the Northwest passage, where many ships met a frostbitten demise in search of a way through.



It is a region that is also missing from many Arctic sea ice models.

"There's a lot of shipping interest in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, but there isn't a consensus as to what's happening there in terms of sea ice," explains Amy.

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Have data from ESA's various satellite missions benefited your work? Would you like to share the results from your research?

Contact us and we may be able to publish an article or conduct an interview related to your experience.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

14/01/2025

1st ESA-JAXA EarthCARE In-Orbit Validation Workshop
Registration closes 06 January 2025

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11/02/2025

The European Earth Observation Ecosystem: 2040+
Registration is open

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23/06/2025

Living Planet Symposium 2025
Tutorial submission deadline
31 January 2025

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Focus on: Success stories

2024 highlights: Showcasing key Earth observation stories

19 December 2024

2024 has been a year of incredible Earth observation moments – spanning launches, mission milestones and innovative research, from data users around the world.

In this article, we are looking back at the below key stories from the past twelve months, from ESA's various Earth Observation (EO) missions.

ERS-2 reenters Earth's atmosphere

In February, the trailblazing ERS-2 satellite re-entered Earth's atmosphere.

Growing TPM collection = more cutting-edge science

The growing volumes of high-quality data disseminated via ESA's Third Party Missions programme continued to support innovative research and development projects this year.

EarthCARE lofted into orbit

In May, the long-awaited EarthCARE satellite kicked off its mission to advance our understanding of clouds, aerosols and radiation.

Celebrating 10 years of Swarm

In April, ESA held a conference to mark a decade of operations for the Swarm constellation and celebrate its scientific achievements.



Artist's impression of EarthCARE satellite.
Credit: ESA–P. Carril, 2013

Cryo2ice turns five

In July 2020, CryoSat's orbit was adjusted so that the ground tracks of both CryoSat and ICESat-2 satellites would converge over the Arctic, in a unique collaboration known as Cryo2ice.

An unexpected application for SMOS

In October – just weeks before the mission's 15th anniversary science conference – we featured a surprising application for SMOS, in which the satellite was used to monitor the conditions within caves containing prehistoric artworks.

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CryoSat SIRAL Daily NOP Ocean Report

Published on 18/12/2024

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SMOS Weekly Report

Published on 09/12/2024

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Swarm Weekly L1B Report

Published on 18/11/2024

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