

# Did you know that Envisat...



## WHAT?

Envisat is the **largest civilian Earth observation spacecraft** ever built, with a **mass of 8 tons**



## WHEN?

Launched on **1 March 2002**, on an Ariane-5 rocket from Europe's spaceport in French Guiana, with a **sun-synchronous polar orbit** at about **800 km altitude**

## WHY?

Envisat was ESA's successor to ERS, carrying **10 sophisticated instruments** including:



- An advanced synthetic aperture imaging radar (**ASAR**);
- A radar altimeter (**RA-2**);
- A water vapour measuring microwave radiometer (**MWR**) and a temperature-measuring radiometer (**AATSR**);
- A medium-resolution imaging spectrometer (**MERIS**);
- Three atmospheric chemistry instruments (**GOMOS**, **MIPAS** and **SCIAMACHY**)

## BUILT BY?

Designed and built by an **international consortium** of approximately **50 companies**, led by **Alcatel Space Industries** as the **prime contractor**



## STATUS?

Following the unexpected loss of contact with the satellite, the **mission ended on 8 April 2012** after **10 years of operations**, doubling its planned five-year lifetime

## APPLICATIONS?

The satellite **circled Earth** over **50,000 times**, continuously **observing and monitoring our planet's** land, atmosphere, oceans and ice caps, while supporting scientific research, operational services and applications in several domains like: **meteorology, climatology, environment, atmospheric chemistry, vegetation, hydrology, land use, ocean and ice processes**



## DATA AND USERS?

Its data supported over 10,000 projects in some 70 countries producing over 7000 scientific publications. Archived data still provide a wealth of information, and are continuously improved to build harmonised time series with Copernicus Sentinel data



## DATA ACCESS?

<https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/search?text=&category=Data&filter=envisat>



For more information visit:

<https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/envisat>