



GOCE satellite status and mission overview

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After completion of commissioning and instrument calibration in July 2009 and subsequent decay to its nominal operational altitude of 255 km, GOCE entered nominal science operations on 29 September 2009. The selected orbit allows mapping the Earth once every 61 days with a longitudinal separation of ascending node crossings at the equator of less than 0.4 degrees. The first complete mapping generating an uninterrupted data set of 61 days was achieved in December 2009. The mission has been continued at the same altitude ever since.

This presentation will focus on the satellite status and performance and on the observations performed so far. An outlook on future mission planning will also be given.