



CryoSat-2 post launch commissioning performance

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CryoSat-2 was launched on 8th April 2010 and following a 3 day LEOP entered its 6 month commissioning phase. The primary payload of the platform consists of the Synthetic Interferometric Radar Altimeter (SIRAL-2) with support for its data processing coming from data acquired from on-board DORIS DGXX and star trackers. We present a description of the payload and provide post-launch performance summaries in terms of SIRAL internal/external calibration in combination with an assessment of global data acquisition achievement in each of the three science modes: Low resolution pulse-width limited mode (LRM) over interior land-ice and ocean to support POD, Synthetic aperture radar mode (SARM) for sea-ice and SAR interferometric mode (SARInM) for higher surface slope land-ice sheet margin acquisitions.

Commissioning activities are summarised with examples and we provide conclusions on the experiences gained with the data during this period. Specific issues are highlighted and that Users of the data products should consider taking into account with their analyses.

Finally, present performances of the three science modes either over transponders or open ocean calibration zones are provided in addition to specific cases over land and sea ice.

Preliminary performances of DORIS and star trackers will be provided in the context of overall SIRAL performance.