



## “GMES Space Component - Programme Overview”

Josef Aschbacher, Maria Pilar Milagro-Pérez, Antonio Ciccolella, Thomas Beer, Giancarlo Filippazzo, and Eleni Paliouras

ESA - ESRIN, GMES Space office, Frascati (RM), Italy (josef.aschbacher@esa.int, 00390694188700/702)

GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) is the most ambitious operational Earth Observation programme to date. It will provide joined-up, timely, reliable and easily accessible information in domains such as natural disaster planning and response, the environment, agriculture, land use, climate change and security.

GMES is led by the EU and has three main components: Space, In-situ and Services. The Space Component, led by ESA, is in its pre-operational stage, serving users with satellite data already available today at European, national and international level, so called “GMES Contributing Missions”. It will become operational once the dedicated infrastructure, the “Sentinel” satellites and their corresponding ground segment, are operational. The first of these satellites are launched in 2013. They will provide a unique set of observations using SAR, multispectral, altimeter and atmospheric chemistry sensors.

Sentinels continue to be complemented by Contributing Missions which make part of their data available for GMES.

The GMES Space Component (GSC) is organised in two overlapping phases: the development and the operational phase. The challenge will be now to ensure the programme’s long-term sustainability. GMES will provide a vast amount of regular, high-quality satellite-based observations to science, public and commercial users alike.

The Sentinel data policy is currently being finalised. A free and open access policy is envisaged, subject to restrictions only if security or other European interests need to be preserved.

This session aims at informing users about the programme’s overall status and its potential for users.