



## GOCE mission status and plans for the last year of operation

Michael Fehringer (1), Rune Floberghagen (2), Bjoern Frommknecht (2), Christoph Steiger (3), and Massimo Romanazzo (3)

(1) ESA-ESTEC, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes, Noordwijk, Netherlands, (2) ESA-ESRIN, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes, Frascati, Italy, (3) ESA-ESOC, Directorate of Human Spaceflight and Operations, Darmstadt, Germany

Launched in March 2009, GOCE has by far exceeded its nominal 12 months mission lifetime and has achieved its scientific goals. The mission will terminate by the end of 2013 with the exhaustion of the Xenon fuel to power the electric propulsion system for drag-free control. To make best use of the remaining lifetime and in particular to further exploit the satellite's unique capabilities to determine small scale features of the Earth's gravity field its operational orbit has been lowered from 255 to 235 km during the second part of 2012 and early 2013.

The presentation will provide the mission status and operational plans for the last year of the mission. Both the space and ground segments will be covered.