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Jason-3, climate and outreach

Vinca Rosmorduc (1), Emilie Bronner (2), and Danielle De Staerke (2) (1) CLS, DOS/SER/DP, Ramonville StAgne, France (vrosmorduc@cls.fr), (2) CNES, Toulouse, France

Two radar altimetry satellites are to be launched beginning of 2016. Jason-3 is a EUMETSAT/NOAA/CNES/NASA mission follow-on to Jason-2, Jason-1 and previously Topex/Poseidon, thus continuing on the now 23-year homogeneous time series into a 30-year climate-relevant length. Sentinel-3 is an European mission in the frame of the Copernicus programme.

A few weeks before the launches, late 2015, the United Nations Climate Change Conference 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) meeting took place in Paris end of 2015 (30 November to 11 December 2015), so the talk in France and in quite a lot of countries at that time was about climate, climate monitoring and climate change. And, at the same time, a nimportant El Niño episode was reaching its peak, with its impacts seen all over the globe. On both subjects, radar altimetry has a monitoring role to play, and from the very beginning of the CNES/NASA Topex/Poseidon-Jason series of satellites, these subjects were broached in its outreach.

We will detail how those subjects were disseminated, and especially how they got into media coverages, what seem the best (nowadays) canals to outreach a subject to a more or less wide audience.