

The Cnes Earth Observation programme  
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The principal characteristics of CNES's (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, French Space Agency) Earth observation programme are presented here, including key facts and figures from past missions, those currently being operated and those under development. Information will be provided on many missions, ranging from science orientated missions, including ocean surface topography (Jason series, Altika), clouds and aerosols (Calipso, Parasol), SMOS for ocean salinity and soil moisture, Megha Tropiques for tropical atmospheric water and Swarm for the Earth's magnetic field, to operational missions such as IASI for atmospheric Infra Red sounding (temperature, water and composition of the atmosphere) on board Metop A and B, and SPOT, Pléiades 1-A and 1-B for optical high resolution imagery. Some examples of scientific results are shown in the fields of oceanography, physic and composition of the atmosphere, solid Earth, land surfaces...

Among the missions currently under development, Jason 3 for ocean surface topography, Venus for multispectral imagery, CFOSAT for sea waves, IASI-NG on board Metop-SG, SWOT wide swath altimetry for sea and inland water levels and Merlin for atmospheric methane will be described.

The complementarity with other European programmes in particular European Space Agency's (ESA) Earth Explorer programme and the European Union's Copernicus programme will be highlighted. CNES's contribution to coordinating international multilateral action through the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), will be presented highlighting this committee's role in developing the space component of the GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems). Finally, the French science communities perspective on future missions defined during the French "scientific prospective seminar" held in mid-march 2014 in La Rochelle 2014 are detailed.