

Sentinel-3 Calibration and Validation Planning Meeting

ESA/ESRIN, 20-22nd March 2011 (Magellan, Cook and Annex)

The Global Monitoring for Environment and Securing (GMES) Sentinel-3 satellite is now being manufactured and expected to launch in late 2013. The Satellite carries follow-on instruments to the highly successful ENVISAT platform including: the Synthetic Aperture RADAR Altimeter (SRAL) providing continuity to ENVISAT RA-2 altimetry, the Ocean and Land Colour Imager (OLCI) providing continuity to ENVISAT MERIS spectrometer measurements and, the Sea and Land Surface Temperature Radiometer (SLSTR) providing continuity to ENVISAT AATSR visible and thermal infrared measurements. After launch, a 5-month Mission Commissioning Phase (E1) followed by a Long term Operational Mission Phase (E2) will be initiated. During E1 intensive activities will establish the functionality and initial performance of the Sentinel-3 system based on calibration and validation activities. Following a successful commissioning review, the satellite will then continue in nominal operations for Phase E2 supported by on-going calibration and validation activities to monitor and maintain data quality.

This meeting will present an overview and status of Sentinel-3 calibration and validation activities, review the Draft Sentinel-3 Calibration/Validation plan, seek lessons learned feedback and inputs from previous missions and the calibration and validation community and, provide Sentinel-3 teams with prioritized recommendations to ensure an effective and successful mission cal/val outcome.

Meeting Aim

The aim of the meeting is:

To seek feedback and inputs from the calibration/validation community at an early stage to facilitate effective planning and subsequent implementation of calibration and validation activities.

Meeting Objectives

The meeting has been designed to address the following objectives:

- Present an overview and the status of current Sentinel-3 Cal/Val planning.
- Seek inputs and feedback from the International cal/val community based on historical and contemporary missions, activities and approaches.
- Identify any gaps in current Sentinel-3 cal/val planning and establish priorities.
- Learn about Cal/Val community activities (e.g cruise, FP7 activities, GMES services) that may contribute to Sentinel-3 cal/val
- Establish the Sentinel-3 Cal/Val team and S3 Cal/Val organization (ESA/EUMETSAT)

Meeting Format

The meeting will be structured around a set of plenary presentations, a poster session of potential cal/val community activities, short collaborative cal/val community white papers (ideally provided before the meeting), and working breakout sessions.

Meeting Outcomes

The primary outcome of this meeting will be

1. Feedback and recommendations from the cal/val community that will be used to prioritize, improve and consolidate Sentinel-3 cal/val planning.

2. A portfolio of potential community cal/val activities that could contribute to Sentinel-3 calibration and validation.
3. Prepare and organize a Sentinel-3 Cal/Val team.
4. Publish a suite of short papers as a meeting proceedings