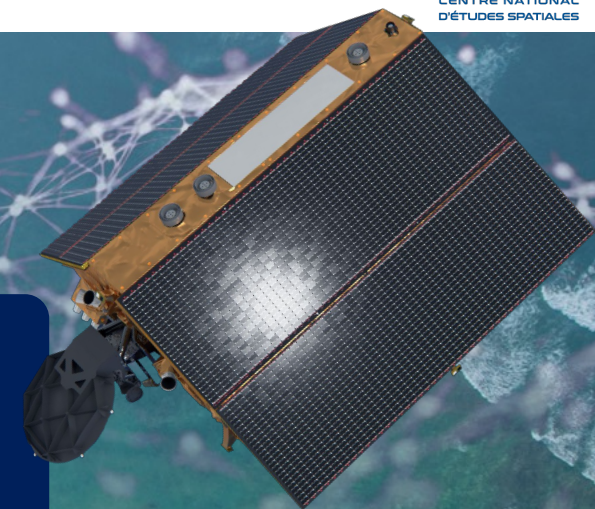


## Presentation

# KEY POINTS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING

**Eric Leuliette** (NOAA, United States)

**Pascal Bonnefond** (Observatoire de Paris - LTE, France); **Alejandro Egido** (ESA/ESTEC, Netherland); **Severine Fournier** (NASA/JPL, USA); **Heather Roman-Stork** (NOAA, USA) ; **Remko Scharroo** (EUMETSAT, Germany); **Josh Willis** (JPL, United States)



# Future planning for Jason-3

OSTST 2026

At the 2026 REVEX, the Jason-3 partners confirmed the plan to end support of the operational mission on 31 December 2027.

The current plan is to continue operating in the J2/J3 Long-Repeat Orbit (LRO). The LRO supports the OSTST and Project Scientist recommendation to map the mean sea surface/geoid to at least 2 km resolution, while supporting operational forecasting.

This week Jason-3 begins the 4<sup>th</sup> interleaved LRO ground track:

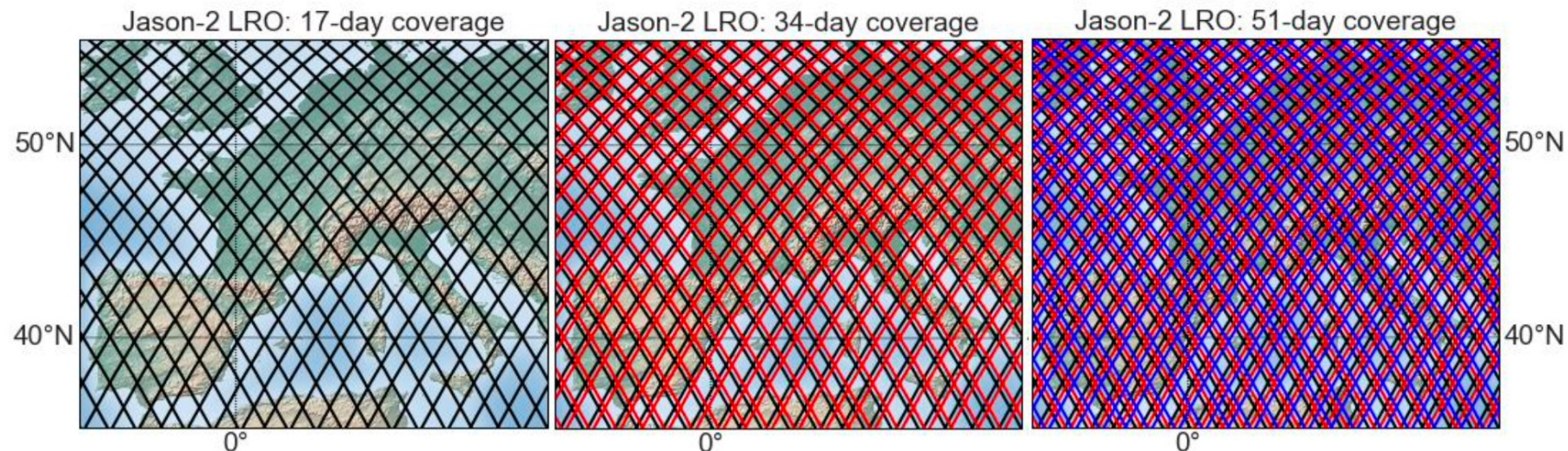
- LRO 1 Jason-2 July 2017 to July 2018
- LRO 2 Jason-2 July 2018 to September 2019 (shifted 4 km from LRO #1) **gaps from safeholds**
- LRO 3 Jason-3 June 2025 to June 2026 (shifted 2 km from LRO #1)
- ★ LRO 4 Jason-3 July 2026 to July 2027 (shifting 4 km from LRO #3, or 2 km from LRO #1)
- LRO 5 Jason-3 July 2027 to December 2027 or TBD?

# LRO background

OSTST 2026

One cycle (~368 days) yields a fine grid of approximately 8-km. It is beneficial for marine geodesy (e.g. improvement of bathymetry and mean sea surface models). The LRO was designed to support mesoscale observations (~17 day subcycle) and a coarse “fall back” subcycle (~144 days):

- Sub-cycle: 4 nodal days - 3.97 days - 51 revolutions
- Sub-cycle: 17 nodal days - 16.86 days - 217 revolutions (434 passes)
- Sub-cycle: 81 nodal days - 80.31 days - 1034 revolutions
- Sub-cycle: 145 nodal days - 143.77 days - 1851 revolutions
- Cycle: 371 nodal days - 367.84 days - 4736 revolutions



# Jason-3 LRO Discussion

OSTST 2026

- The REVEX discussed returning to LRO #2 to map the gaps.
- 4-partner mission support ends 31 December 2027 in the middle of a potential 5<sup>th</sup> LRO cycle.
- Since the OSTST2023, the SWOT mission has continued to demonstrate excellent high-resolution mapping of the MSS/geoid.

Is there a scientific recommendation for returning to LRO #2 or stay in LRO #4 to repeat the ground track?

Is there a scientific benefit for continuing Jason-3 for a short time in 2028, i.e, to finish another LRO cycle?

The Project Scientists would particularly like to receive feedback from the “Geoid, Mean Sea Surface and Mean Dynamic Topography” splinter.

# (Sentinel-6) Reprocessing Plans

OSTST 2026

By the end of this year a Sentinel-6 will go to a new processing baseline (G02) that adds 20-Hz corrections and some more quality flags, and makes configuration changes for Sentinel-6B only.

- A reprocessing of the full mission of Sentinel-6B with Baseline G02 is planned.
- Another full-mission reprocessing is only planned for the next Baseline (H01).

Keeping in mind the effort involved with Reprocessing and the minor change that G02 will introduce:

- Does the OSTST agree with this plan?
- Is there a strong need to also reprocess Sentinel-6MF data with Baseline G02 during its tandem with Sentinel-6B?

Does the OSTST have any other recommendation regarding reprocessing?

- Is it too often? Is it too rare? Is the information provided sufficient?
- Should there be more reprocessing for the older reference missions?

# Future of the reference mission

OSTST 2026

**The previously planned Sentinel-6C has been cancelled and Sentinel-6 partner agencies have established an accelerated procurement and development plan for the Sentinel-6 Next Generation mission, with the objective of minimising the risk of a potential data gap.**

**Do you have suggestions to aid the Sentinel-6 partner agencies in avoiding a gap between S6B and Sentinel-6 Next Generation?**

# Future of the OSTST

OSTST 2026

**How to you see the evolution of OSTST meeting (shape and frequency)?**

**Should we pursue merging the OSTST with SWOT-ST or other meetings?**

**What are some of potential consequences of reduced funding we are facing on the research activities**