



CLS, The first French collaborative SENTINEL-1 receiving station

On April 3, 2014, " Sentinel-1 A" was successfully launched from the space center in Kourou (French Guiana) . This satellite is the first of the Earth Observation European satellites to meet the operational needs of the Copernicus program. This ambitious Earth observation programme is coordinated by the European Commission, in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA) for the space component. The objective of Copernicus is to ensure European independence in the acquisition and management of environmental data in support of European authorities and policymakers.

In this context, an agreement recently signed between France and ESA allows the French to set up the Sentinel collaborative ground segment. CLS's VIGISAT station, based in Brest (France), receives images from the Sentinel-1 satellite constellation. VIGISAT becomes the first French collaborative station and will continue to provide data and products with near real-time positioning services and sea states measurements for maritime surveillance applications.

From the beginning, CLS has been involved in the Sentinel -1A mission. Indeed, CLS contributed to the development of S-1 processor through the conception and development of Ocean level-2 products to measure sea surface conditions, as well as sensor performance monitoring under the "Sentinel-1 Mission performance Centre" (MPC- S1) , located in CLS Brest.

Since the beginning of 2013, CLS manages and operates the Sentinel-1 Mission Performance Centre in partnership with top-level experts.

Vincent Kerbaol, CLS Radar applications manager comments :

“VIGISAT becomes the first receiving station in France that will receive operational data directly from the European satellite Sentinel -1A starting July first. We looks forward the full implementation of this agreement since we started upgrading the VIGISAT site as early as September 2014.”



With Sentinel -1 and CLS expertise , We now have the opportunity to observe the earth and get radar images of any place of the world. The Sentinel -1A satellite has already demonstrated its ability to be reprogrammed in an emergency, in case of a major event such as the flooding that affected Namibia. It will also be used to monitor our maritime space, detect oil slicks , help track vessels, fight against illegal trafficking (illegal fishing , piracy, etc.), understand ocean evolutions and support authorities in case of natural disasters.

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