

Magnetic magic: 10 reasons to be excited about Swarm

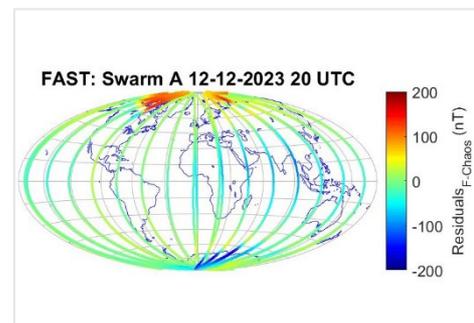
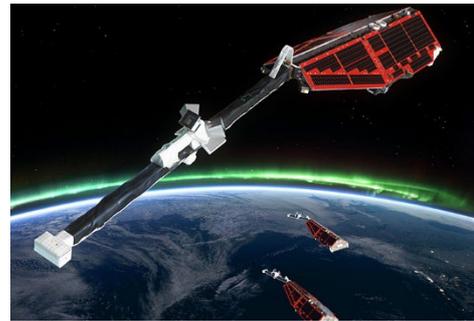
07 March 2024

In November 2023, Swarm celebrated an impressive ten years in orbit. In that time, ESA's magnetic mission has honed in on all sorts of mysteries - from tussling magnetic blobs to animal migration.

The three-satellite constellation has been a game changer for scientists, providing measurements of Earth's magnetic field with unprecedented accuracy.

Swarm allows us to probe the whole of the Earth system, from the outer reaches of the atmosphere right down to its fiery core.

Here, in no particular order, are 10 reasons you should be excited about Swarm in its second decade.



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ESA's Earthnet Third Party Missions Programme presents the latest addition to its collection: the GEOSAT-2 Spain Coverage 2022.

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The European Space Agency (ESA) has developed a comprehensive suite of innovative Earth system data records as part of the Fundamental Data Records for Altimetry project - FDR4ALT.

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Highlight on:

Go-to guide to Third Party Mission data offering

27 February 2024

ESA's latest Third Party Missions Data Access Guide has been published, providing technical details and information on available data collections for all current or past Third Party Missions.

The December 2023 version of ESA's Third Party Missions (TPM) Data Access Guide is now available for download. This is your go-to guide to the offering of TPM data (from current or Heritage missions), including the collection descriptions and how to access them.

The 2023 version of this guide has been revised with respect to the 2022 version, to include recently available data collections provided by new missions in the TPM portfolio – FSSCat, KOMPSAT-1, Landsat RBV, NovaSAR-1 and TanSat.



Featured Datasets - specific subsets of data collections that are freely available online via Immediate Access or Fast Approval - are the topic of one section in the guide.

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Have data from ESA's various satellite missions benefited your work? Would you like to share the results from your research?

Contact us and we may be able to publish an article or conduct an interview related to your experience.

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Focus on: Data access

How to access SPOT data

The SPOT series consists of seven satellites that were launched between 1986 and 2014. The first five satellites were owned by CNES (Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales), and SPOT 6 and 7 are commercial satellites owned by Airbus Defence and Space.

SPOT 6 is the only satellite in the series that is still operational, but the archive of imagery now extends back almost 40 years. The SPOT 1 to 5 satellites acquired high resolution imagery, and SPOT 6 and 7 were designed to acquire very high resolution imagery providing continuity for the previous SPOT satellites, and complementing the Pléiades mission.

All of the SPOT satellites were created to acquire wide-area imagery that help manage Earth's resources, and to monitor the climate and oceans.

The SPOT missions are part of ESA's Third Party Missions programme, through which ESA has an agreement to promote the free availability of data products from the series.

The available collections contain data products from all seven satellites. This includes the SPOT 4 and 5 Take5 experiment, when SPOT 4 and 5 were flown in a lower orbit at the end of their missions, achieving a five-day repeat cycle.



SPOT 4 image of sandbanks in the Wadden Sea, in the north of the Netherlands.

Copyright: CNES, Spot Image

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