

sentinel-3

→ A BIGGER PICTURE FOR COPERNICUS

MISSION STATUS : 21 December 2018

SENTINEL-3B

Copernicus Sentinel-3B, launched on 25 April 2018, has completed its commissioning phase, with the In-Orbit Commissioning Review (IOCR) successfully completed on 17 October 2018 at ESA-ESRIN. The first Sentinel-3B SLSTR Level 1 data have been officially released in November 2018, followed by SRAL Level 1 and Level 2 and OLCI Level 1 data in mid-December. The OLCI and SLSTR level 2 data release is planned for early 2019. Note that sample data for all instrument were already released to the Sentinel-3 Validation Team since June (except for the L2 SLSTR which was released in November). The Tandem position was reached on 6 June 2018, placing Sentinel-3B 30 seconds in front of Sentinel-3A and the tandem phase was completed on 16 October with the start of the second drift phase, which was completed on 27 November. Sentinel-3B is now in its nominal orbital position 140 degree in front of Sentinel-3A. The handover of the spacecraft operations from ESA to EUMETSAT has taken place on 28 November.

SENTINEL-3A

OVERALL MISSION

- The overall status of the Sentinel-3A spacecraft is nominal, with all subsystems performing nominally.
- All instruments, including OLCI, SRAL, SLSTR and MWR, are switched on and performing well.
- The Flight Operations Segment (FOS) is operating nominally.
- The Payload Data Ground Segment (PDGS) for Land and Marine are operating as expected.
- Since October 2017 Sentinel-3A is in routine operations, having reached full operational capacity.
- The joint ESA-EUMETSAT mission management activities continue nominally.

DATA AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

- All Level 1 and Level 2 core data products have been released.
- Level 2 synergy product have officially been released in October 2018.
- The definition and implementation of the two new core data products, as requested by the European Commission, namely the Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) and Fire Radiative Power (FRP) is on-going. The products are expected to be available in Q1 2019.
- Reprocessed Sentinel-3A SRAL Level 1B and Level 2 Land data have been released in November 2018, starting from 1 March 2016, with reprocessed Level 1A and -BS data planned for release in early 2019. Reprocessed Sentinel-3A SLSTR Level 2 were released in December 2018, with reprocessed Level 1 data being planned for release in early 2019. Reprocessed Sentinel-3A OLCI are available to users since September 2018. Reprocessing plans for the data from the Sentinel-3B commissioning phase are currently discussed.
- The Sentinel GNSS L1B RINEX user product for the Sentinel-1, -2 and -3A satellites is available from the Copernicus Data Hub service.
- A new interactive website, www.altimetry-hydro.eu, offers the possibility to display OLTC elevation tables on-board Sentinel-3 SRAL altimeters.
- An update of the on-board OLTC tables for both Sentinel-A and -3B to improve the monitoring of rivers and lakes water surface has been completed. This update will increase the number of included targets (more than 30.000 new virtual stations). The upload to Sentinel-3B is planned shortly as part of the commissioning phase activities and following its successful validation it is planned also to update Sentinel-3A with the same mask.
- A new website comprising all information for the Sentinel-3 Validation Team is now available on www.s3vt.org.
- For more information on data access see: <http://copernicus.eu/data-access>

USER INTERACTION

- The next Sentinel Validation Team Meeting will take place 7-9 May 2019 at ESA-ESRIN. News will be published on www.s3vt.org
- The next Sentinel-3 Quality Working Groups will take place for
 - QWG Altimetry: 22-23 November 2018 (ESRIN)
 - OLCI QWG: 29-30 November 2018
 - SLSTR QWG 4-5 February 2019 (EUMETSAT).

OUTLOOK

Full official release of all Sentinel-3B OLCI and SLSTR level 2 data products.