



→ SPACE FOR EUROPE

The European Space Agency (ESA) is Europe's gateway to space. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe's space capability and ensure that investment in space continues to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world.

ESA is an international organisation with 18 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (Canada takes part in some projects under a Cooperation agreement). By coordinating the financial and intellectual resources of its members, ESA can undertake programmes and activities far beyond the scope of any single European country.

ESA has been dedicated to observing Earth from space since the launch of Meteosat, its first meteorological mission, in 1977. The subsequent series of Meteosat satellites, ERS-1, ERS-2 and Envisat have been providing us with a wealth of valuable data about Earth, its climate and changing environment. We still need to know more about our planet if we are to further understand the Earth system and its processes, especially within the context of global change. This will better equip us for predicting the effects of a changing climate.

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