

ESA Upcoming Missions and Connection to CCI

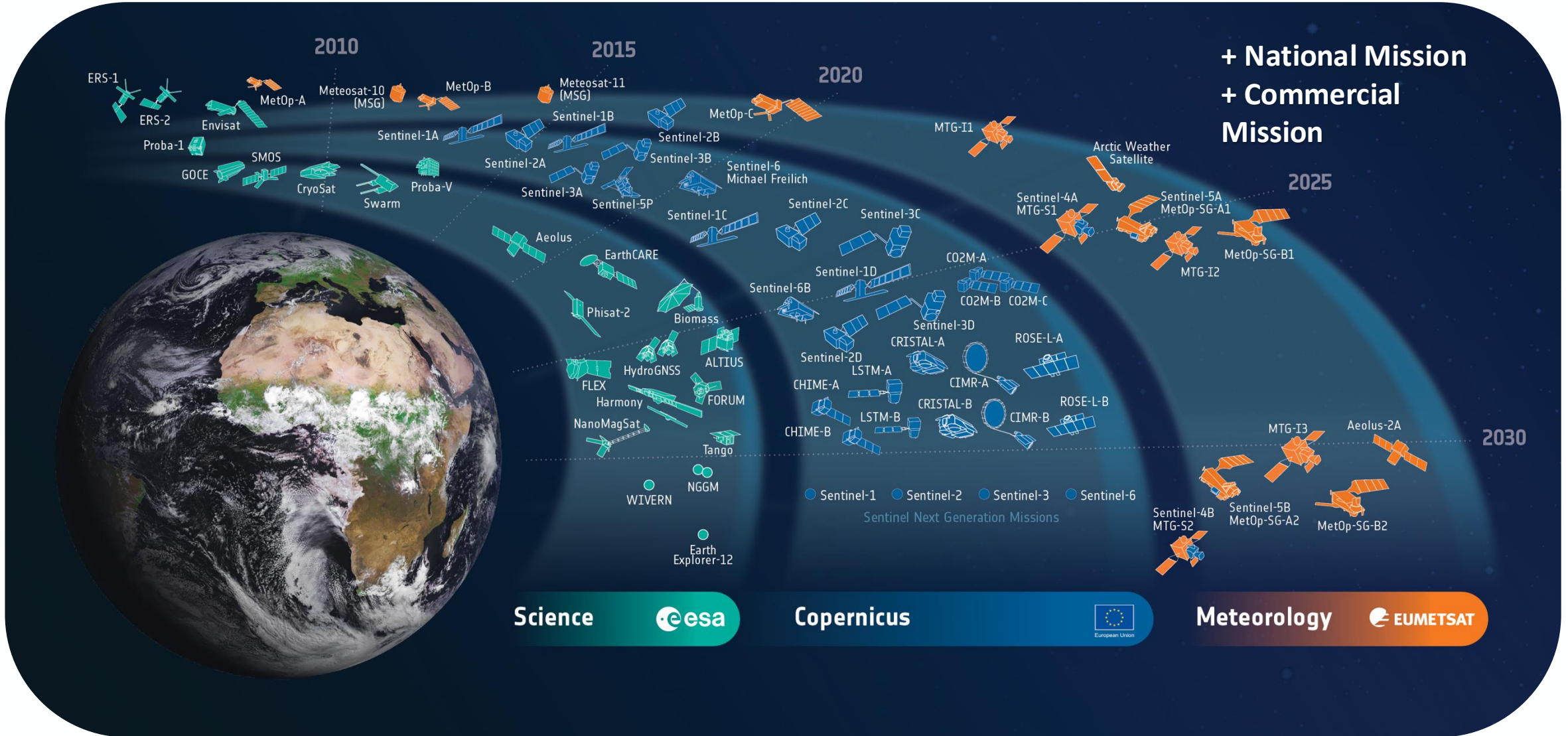
Thorsten Fehr, ESA

20/03/2026

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ESA's Earth Observation Missions

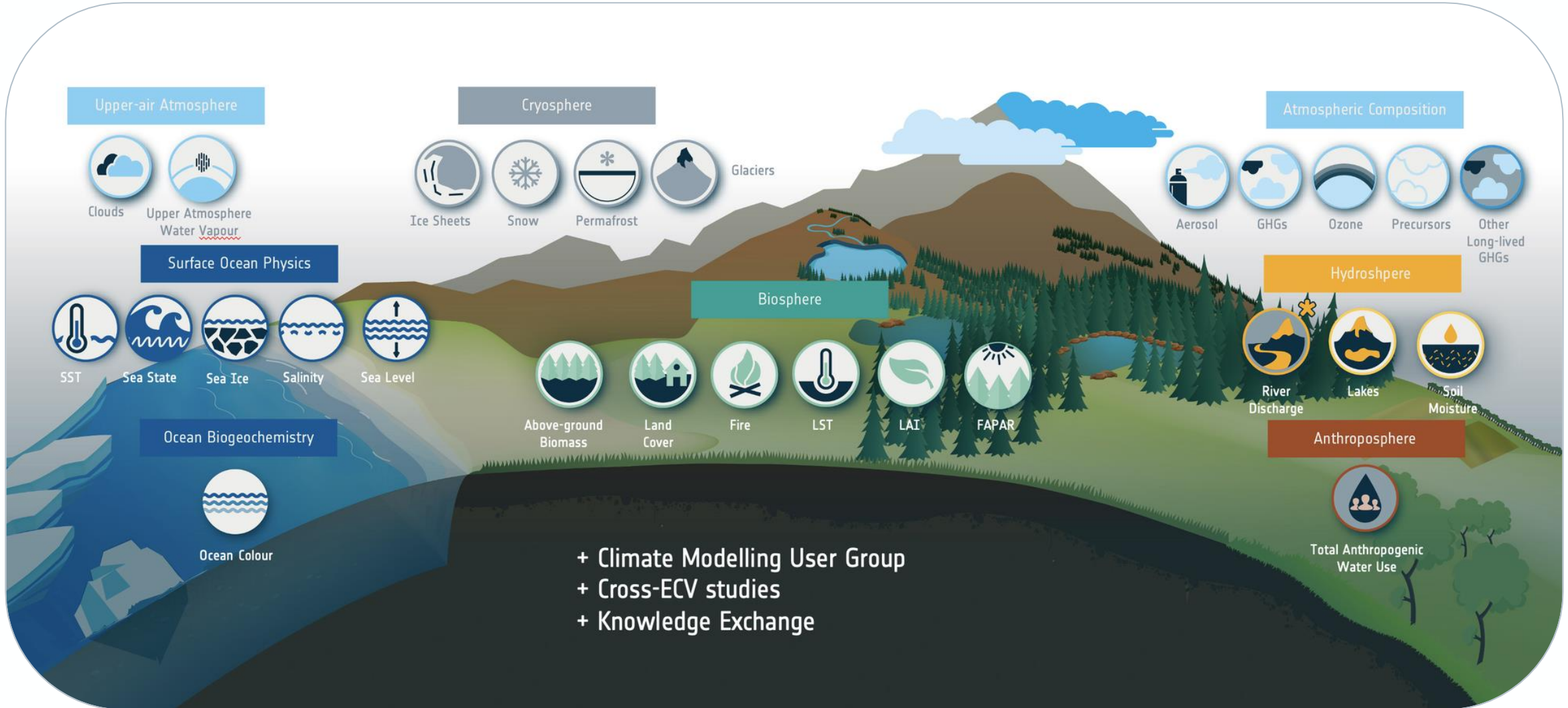


Science

Copernicus

Meteorology



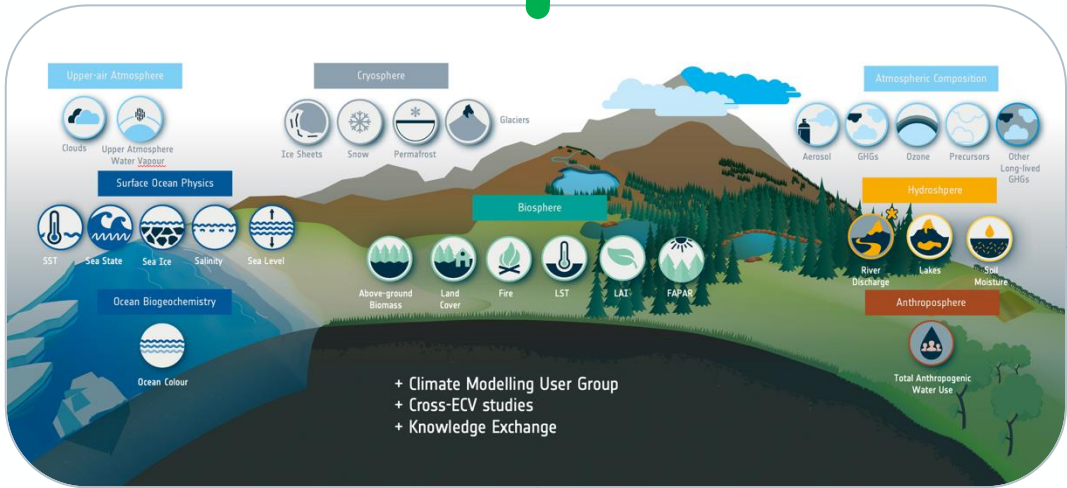


Making the connection between ECVs to Missions



Long-term Stability and Accuracy
 Gapless Multi-decadal Coverage
 Global spatial coverage
 Full traceability of uncertainties
 Open science and accessibility

Expert Advice through
 Mission/Science Advisory
 Groups (MAG/SAG)
 (missionadvice.esa.int)



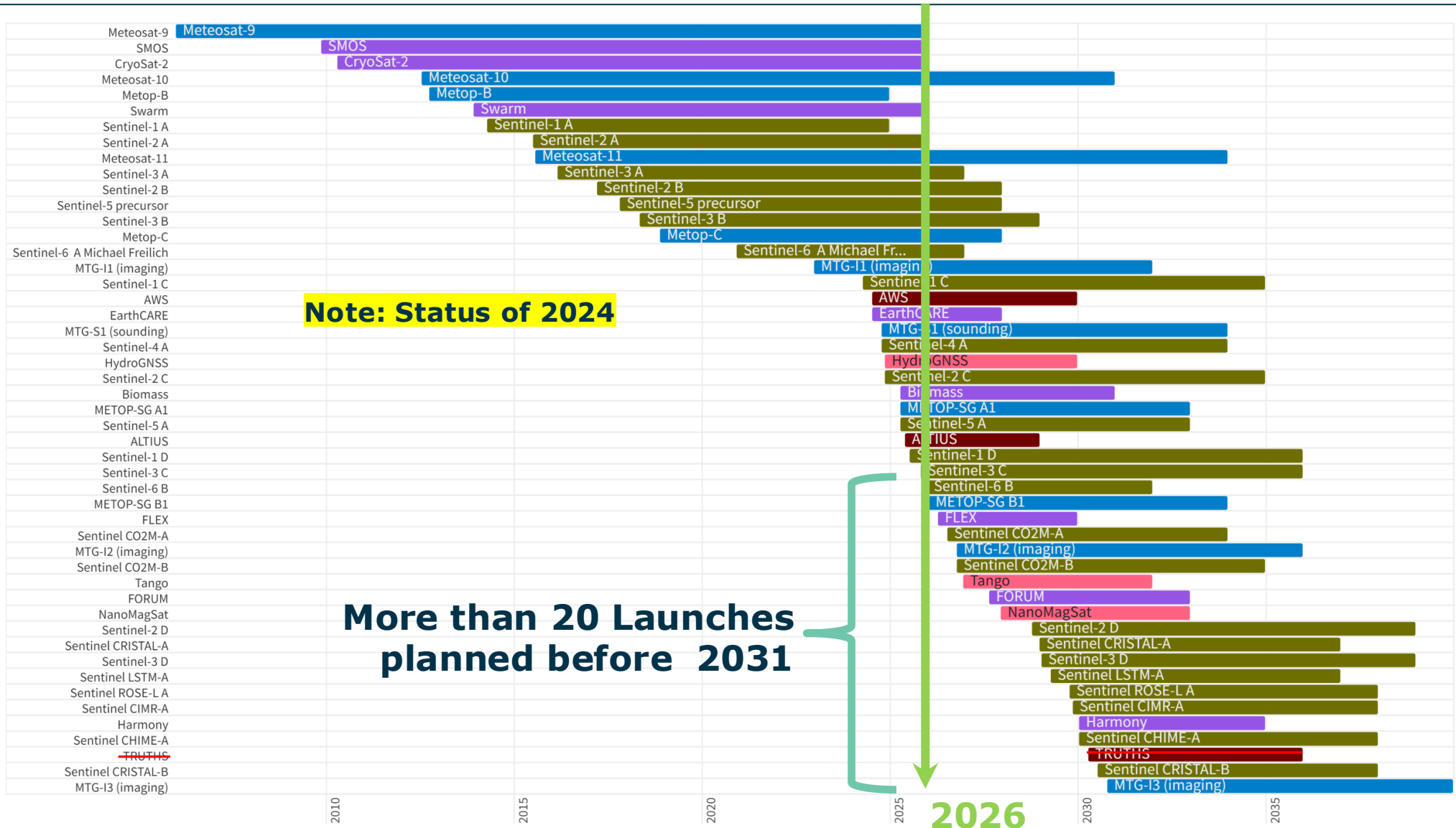
Long-term Datasets
Process Understanding



Process Campaigns
Long-term Datasets

Product Specifications
 "Observability"
 Scientific Readiness
 System Feasibility
 Programmatic Constraints

ESA EO Mission Timeline: Launches before 2031



2023

2031

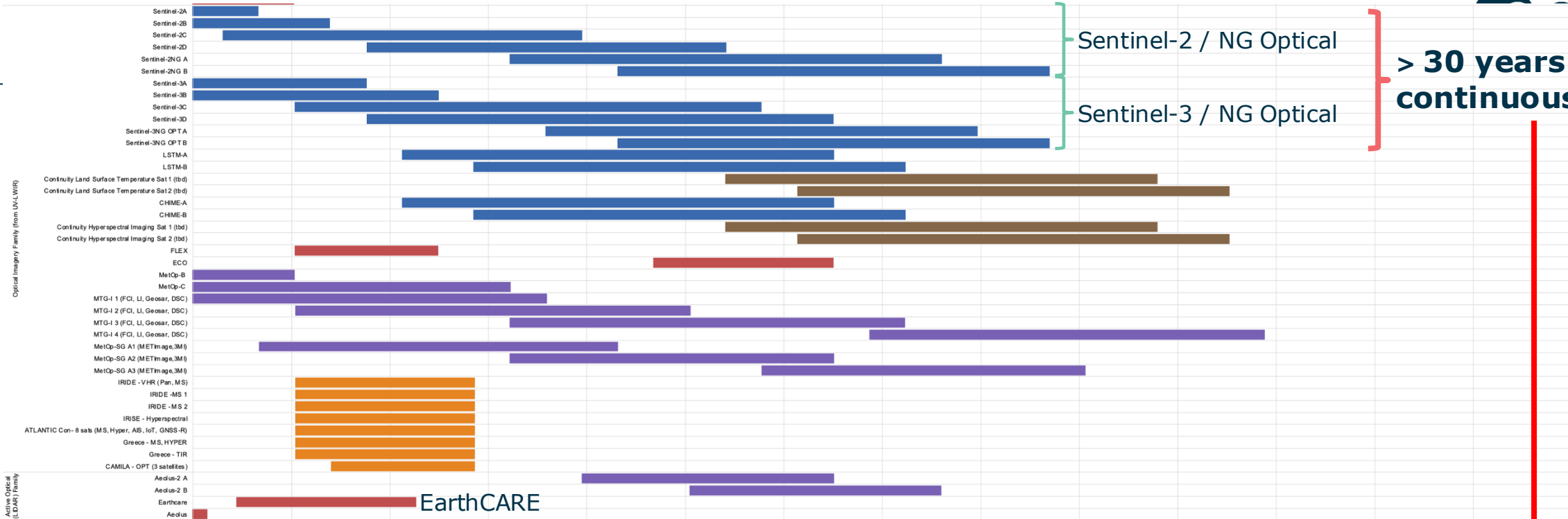
2039

2047



> 30 years continuous data

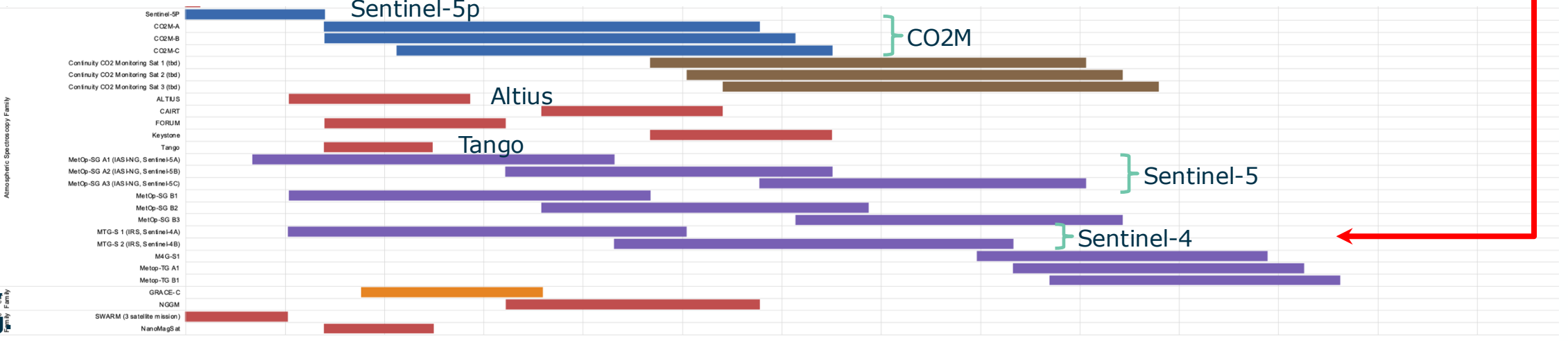
Optical Imagery Family



Lidar



Atmospheric Spectroscopy



Gravity Geomag



ESA Earth Observation Missions Launched 2025



Biomass
29 April 2025

**MTG-S1/
Sentinel-4**
01 July 2025

**MetOP-SG S1/
Sentinel-5**
13 August 2025

Sentinel-1D
04 November 2025

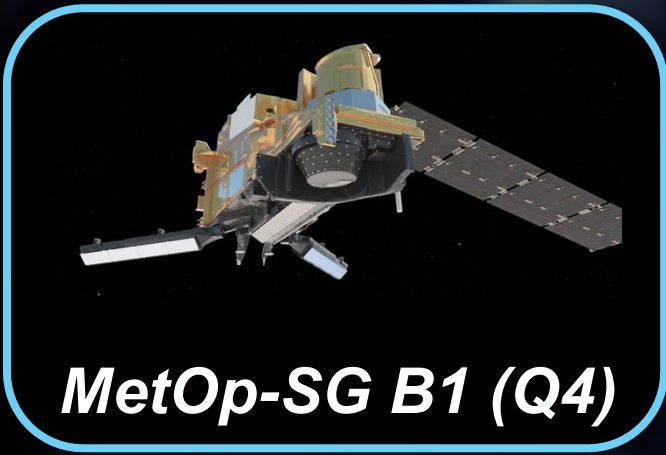
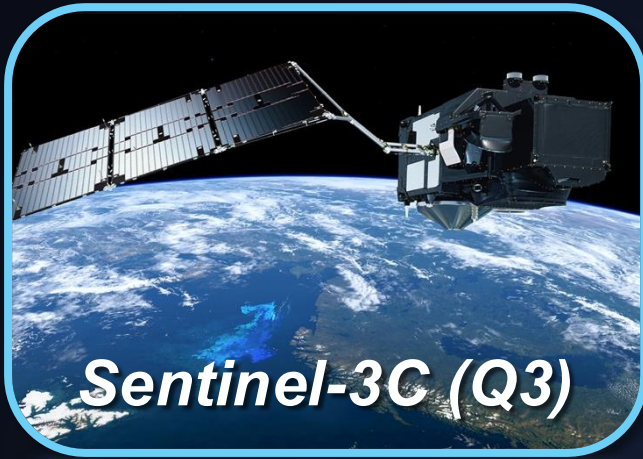
Sentinel-6B
17 November 2025

T+ 00:49:09
SPEED 24243 km/h
ALTITUDE 1285 km
STAGE 2

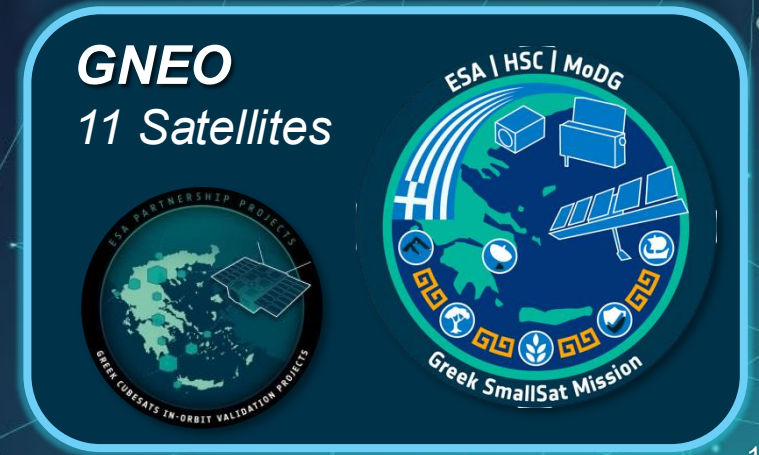
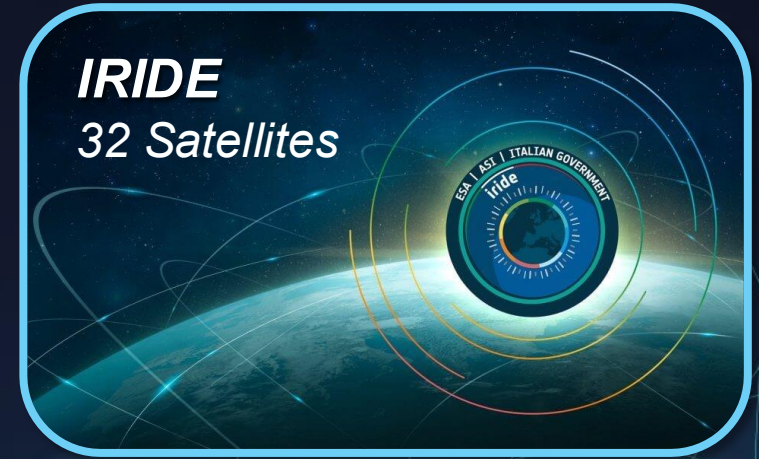
HydroGNSS
28 November 2025

SPEED 15 km/h
ALTITUDE 0.1 km
T+ 00:00:03
CROSS 1.3 s

Four planned launch campaigns

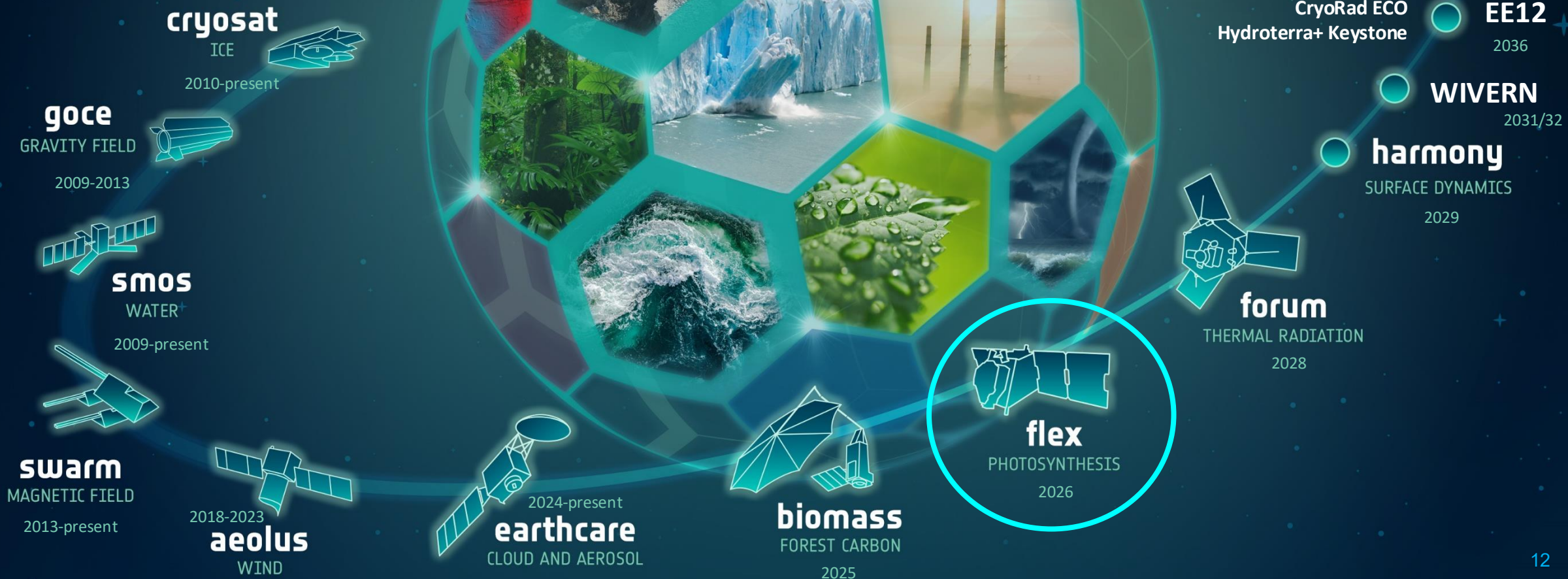


National missions



Earth Explorers

Pioneering Scientific and Technical Excellence



- ESA's past, present and future Earth Observation missions provide key contribution of the ECVs
- Satellite missions provide:
 - long-term continuous datasets (i.e., Copernicus Sentinel and Meteo Missions)
 - information to better characterise and understand Earth and Climate Science processes (e.g., Earth Explorer Missions)
- Intercalibration between instruments and independent validation are priority tasks to ensure consistent long-term datasets
- Full traceability of the instrument performance and transparency of the product generation are key to ensure ECV acceptable datasets
- ESA's EO satellite portfolio covers 85 missions, of with 21 operational, 56 in development or preparation and eight heritage missions
- In the coming three years 14 (+ 6 InCubed) ESA Earth Observation satellites are planned to be launched across all programmes (Research, Copernicus, Meteo, InCubed) + Campaigns