

EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)  
Future Earth Observation Systems (2)

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## METEOSAT THIRD GENERATION: PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND CHALLENGES

**Abstract**

The Meteosat Third Generation satellites aim at renewing the current Meteosat fleet. They will be launched between 2017 and 2030 to provide services on a 20-year timespan. Unlike the previous generations, the MTG constellation will consist in two types of satellites based on the same platform: the MTG-I satellite will ensure the continuity of the imagery mission and provide lightning detection, whereas the MTG-S satellite will embark the Infra-Red Sounding (IRS) mission, and the Sentinel 4/UVN mission, which is part of the GMES program.

Prime contractor of the previous Meteosat generations, Thales Alenia Space France has been selected by the European Space Agency as Prime contractor for the MTG satellites, OHB being in charge of the MTG-S satellites and of the common platform. The B2CD phase has been kicked-off in November 2010 and the System PDR will occur this year.

The aim of this paper is to provide an overview of the MTG program and to address the associated technical challenges.