

ESRIN

It was a busy year for the ESRIN Establishment, hosting many conferences, workshops, and international scientific meetings, culminating in the CEOS (Committee on Earth Observation) 16th Plenary Meeting in November, and the CEOS high-level open session on Earth-observation-related follow-up actions from the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

An event organized around the live transmission of the Envisat launch on 28 February and attracted massive participation by ESRIN employees and local Italian industry and VIPs. A month later, on 28 March, an International Press Day was organised to present the first images from the satellite and its contribution to the global protection of the environment

From 18 to 28 March ESRIN hosted a session of the SpaceTech international postgraduate programme, which leads to a unique Masters Degree in 'Space Systems Engineering'.

A ceremony was organised on 27 November, with the participation of ESA's Director of Administration, Mr Daniel Sacotte, on the occasion of the awarding of the ISO 9001 Certificate to the Information Systems Department.

In terms of accommodation, a new common services area was opened in the spring to house the medical service and bank facilities. The new European Centre for Space Records (ESCR) became operational in October. The host agreement for the Spaceguard Foundation was also signed and the project is already on site. The studies of the Childcare Facility projects were completed, and the latter was approved and is going ahead.

Earth-Observation Applications

Following the successful launch of Envisat, major support was provided in the commissioning of the spacecraft and of its Payload



Some of the participants in the EDUSPACE Workshop

Data System, and an Envisat Validation Workshop was organised to review the excellent results achieved. ERS-2 and third-party mission operations and data exploitation continued. Regular contributions were made to the ESA Web Portal with EO-related stories and satellite images.

Following a re-organisation of the Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes, two EO Departments were established at ESRIN: the Science and Applications Dept. and the Ground Segment Dept. In addition to operation and exploitation of the ERS and third-party missions, these Departments are now also responsible for Envisat mission operations and services. The ESA ground segments are being extended to include new missions such as Alos, CryoSat, and GOCE. The International Charter for Space and Major Disasters and the programme for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) are complementing the EO programmes already being implemented at ESRIN.

EDUSPACE, the EO web site developed for Secondary Schools under the auspices of EURISY by a small team of ESA and few Member States, was opened to the outside world and was an immediate success, with more than 200 schools already registered. At a special ceremony in ESRIN, the site was handed over by EURISY to ESA for operation



The Vega launcher

and maintenance. This was followed by a two-day EDUSPACE Workshop for European teachers within the framework of the ESA effort to 'train the trainers'. The French, Italian, Spanish and German versions of the web site were nearing completion, for public release in early 2003.

Training courses dedicated to trainers were organized on specific themes, which included SAR interferometry. UN and other international trainees, as well as national research fellows, were hosted at ESRIN and their work supported.

The ESA initiative to promote the use of Grid technology in 2002 involved several Directorates and units at ESTEC and ESRIN (Earth Observation, Space Science, Space Weather and System Engineering). The Earth Observation group achieved the first demonstration of GRID technology for space applications as part of ESA's participation in the European DataGrid project funded by the European Commission. The 'GOME Data Processing Use Case' demonstrated how the infrastructure facilitates scientific collaboration between different organisations sharing data and algorithms. GOME ozone profiles run over the European DataGrid Testbed, connecting EO research centres in Holland, France and Italy, were validated using ground-based LIDAR observations in Haute-Provence (F).

Vega Programme

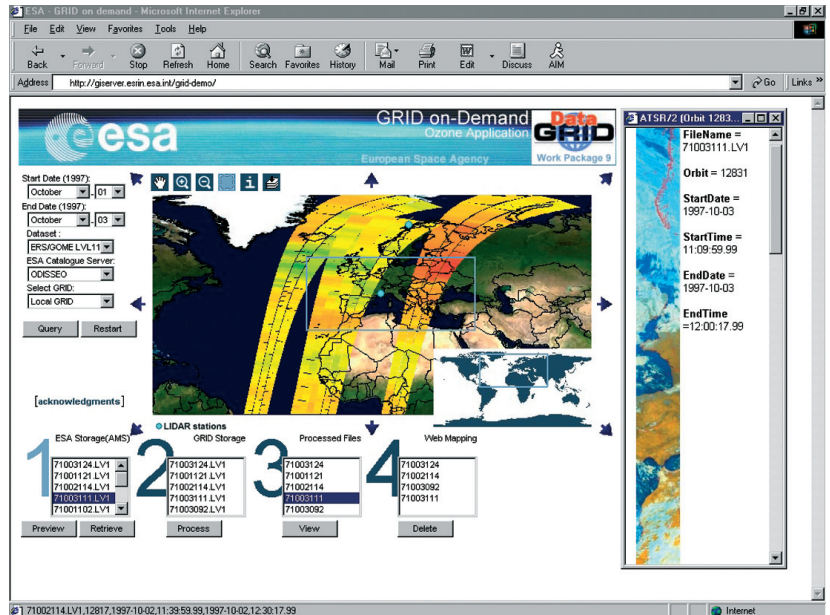
The Vega Integrated Project Team (IPT) underwent some changes during the year, as well as the increase of a number of staff and contractors in the management, AIT, mechanical engineering and project control areas.

In March, an Industrial Day was organized at ESRIN to brief potential industrial contractors on the ground segment activities and plans, in the context of the Invitations to Tender (ITTs) to be issued by the Agency.

ESA Information Systems

In 2002 the Information Systems Department achieved successful certification to ISO 9001:2000 of its Quality Management System

(QMS) for providing ESA with its corporate IT infrastructure and information system (IS) applications. The satisfaction rating of the Department's services continued its upward trend, with noticeable improvements in the handling and resolution of queries and problems.



Activities devoted to the corporate IT infrastructure included:

- consolidation within the ESACOM communications network of ESA internal voice and video conferencing traffic, which became fully operational early in 2002
- introduction of Windows XP as the standard operating platform for all ESA desktop computers, with completion of the full-scale deployment expected at the beginning of 2003
- provision of dedicated data communications and office automation facilities to support the ESA project teams during the launch campaigns for Envisat, MSG-1 and Integral.

Salient achievements in the domain of corporate IS applications included:

- upgrading of ESA's AWARDS financial system to support the introduction of the accrual accounting principles adopted by Council with the reform of ESA Financial Regulations
- implementation and integration of the new

The European DataGrid

- Human Resources Management System, which is due to become fully operational in the first half of 2003. In addition to payroll and staff administration, this integrated tool will facilitate the management of recruitment, training, career development, mobility, planning, and jobs and competences mapping for the ESA work force
- finalisation of the new ESA technology management system MISTER
- enhancement of the Industrial Policy support system SYSTRI with substantial new features allowing simulation and computation of geographical return down to the internal work breakdown structure of individual industrial procurements
- a new tool for consolidated reporting at corporate level of the planning and utilisation of financial and human resources by all programmes.

In terms of information management:

- the ESA Intranet Information and Documentation Site (IDS) attracted greatly increased usage within ESA, along with much improved service availability and reliability
- the new ESA Workbench became the entry point for all ESA authorised users in their daily search to locate and access information resources and service links within the ESA internal web
- within the Libraries, the modernisation of tools and electronic indexes progressed further, with recent surveys showing a high level of satisfaction on the part of Library users across the ESA Establishments.

ESA Web Portal

To ensure continuity of the newsroom and editorial activities of the Portal, in March a contract to supply editorial services on a long-term basis was awarded in open tender. In September, a new staff member joined the team with responsibility for graphics coordination.

In addition to daily news and special events, a number of new features were added in 2002, including the Multi-media Gallery, Focus On, and Space Live. All ESA Member States now have their own news pages in the national language(s). The number of visitors per month topped 500 000 and the site has over 10 000 'subscribers'.

During the year, support was given to a number of special events hosted at ESRIN, in particular the Envisat and MSG launches and the Envisat First Results press event, for which special sites were created. Further details of developments during 2002 are given in the Communications chapter.

