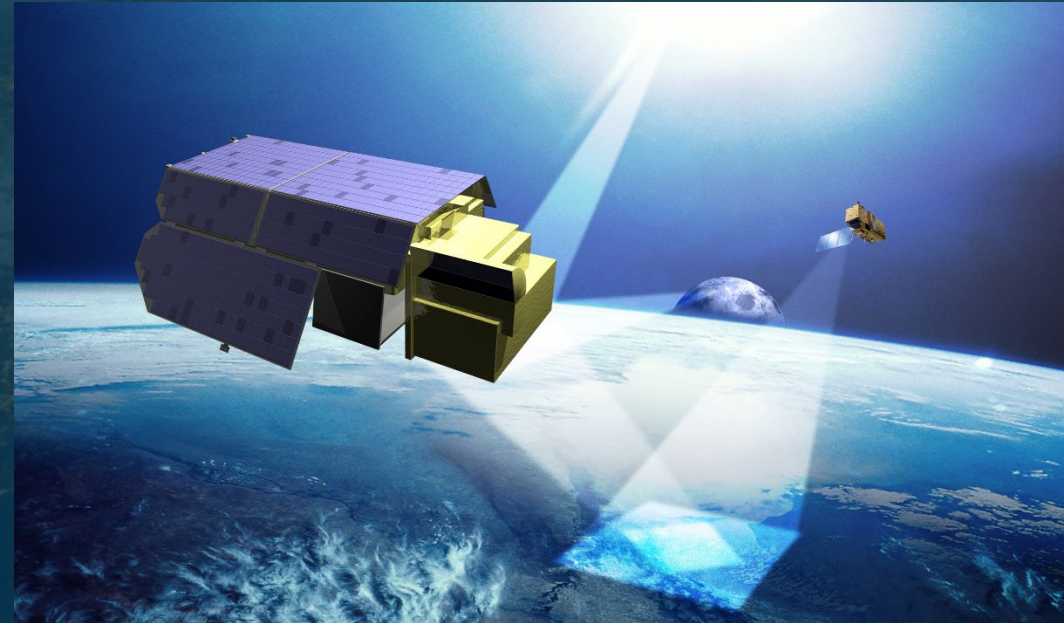




# Traceable Radiometry Underpinning Terrestrial- & Helio- Studies

An ESA EarthWatch mission



*A 'gold standard'  
reference in space  
to support the  
climate emergency*

Nigel Fox, Paul Green, Samuel Hunt, NPL,  
Andrea Marini, Thorsten Fehr, ESA  
Kyle Palmer, Airbus

+++++

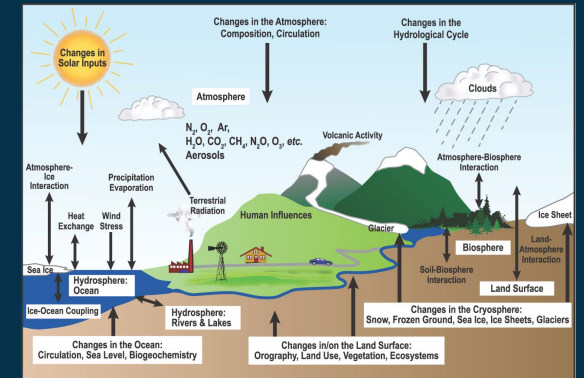
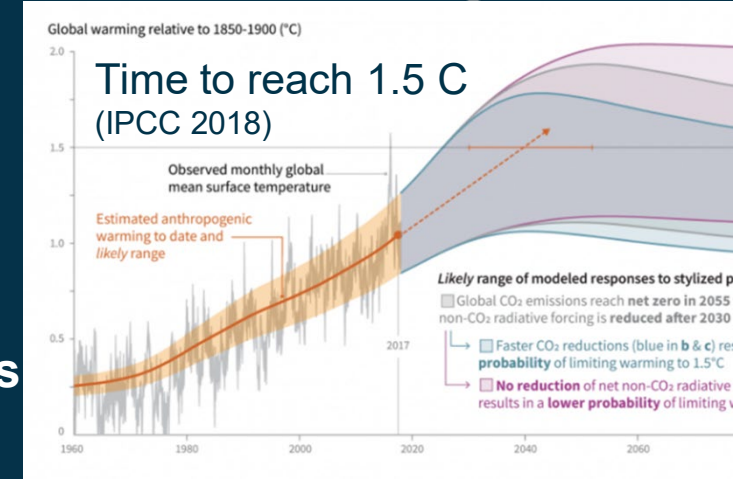
# Societal Challenge: sustainable growth in a changing environment – ‘damage limited’ by climate action

## NEED:- Trustworthy observations from space to:

- Monitor and assess progress resulting from mitigation
- Improve understanding of climate sensitivities, dependencies & forecasts
- Support adaptation, Food security emergency response, de-risk investments

## REQUIRES

- Quantitative, comprehensive, accessible, useable data
- Integrated, interoperable global observing system (space and in-situ)
- Robust reference(s) (benchmarks) against which to reliably measure change in as short a timescale as possible
- International acceptance



Confidence from metrological traceability to international standards (SI) at location of measurement

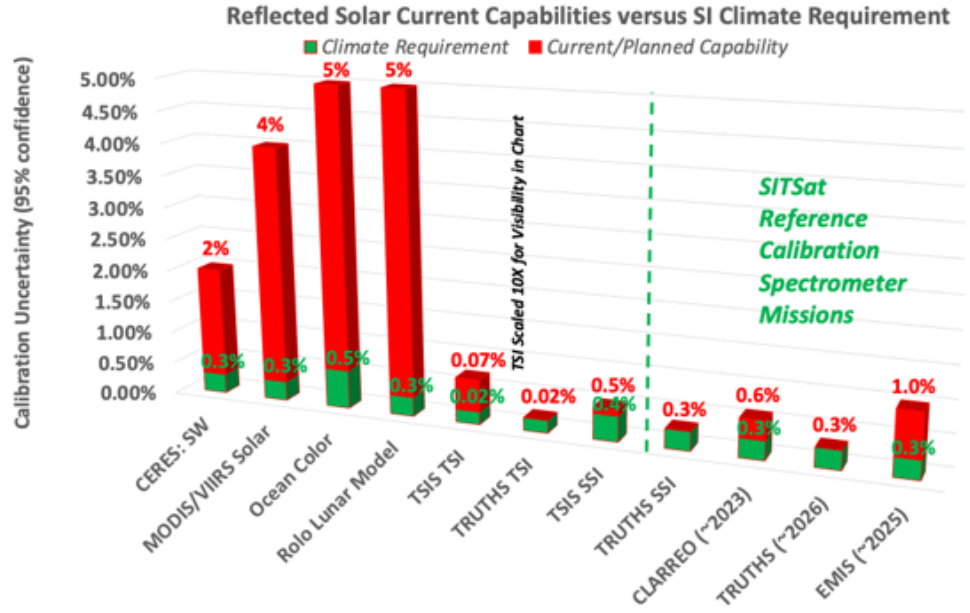


Is Net Zero the right target?

When & how big do we build the next Thames barrier?



# Climate Need & observation challenges



CEOS  
SI-Traceable Space-based Climate Observing System:  
a CEOS and GSICS Workshop  
National Physical Laboratory,  
London, UK,  
9-11 Sept. 2019

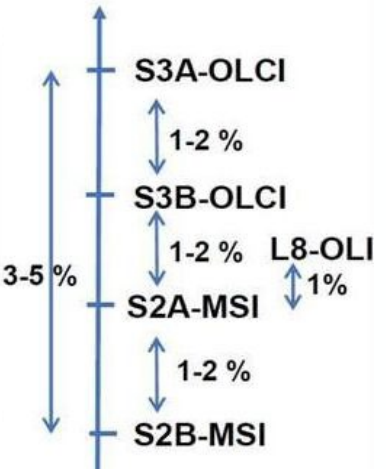
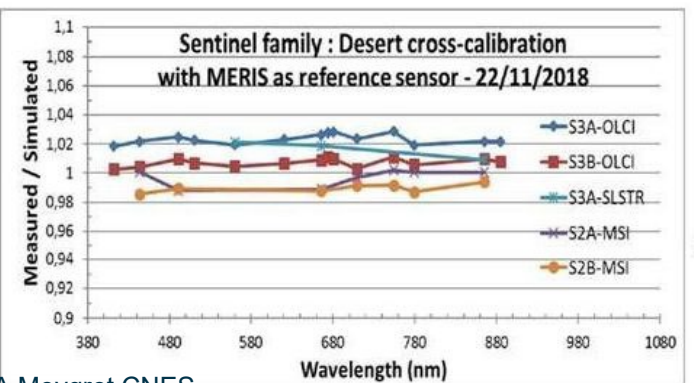
SITSOS Workshop Report



Editors: Nigel Fox, Tim Hewison, Greg Kopp, Bruce Wielicki  
<https://doi.org/10.47120/npl.9319>

**Most satellites not designed for climate:**  
performance to suit application

VNIR brightness



Libya 4, a CEOS PICS site is a desert with a relatively stable long-term reflectance, but absolute value of reflectance less certain.

Trustable harmonised time series require stable/understood sensors anchored to invariant references

<http://calvalportal.ceos.org/report-and-actions>

<https://doi.org/10.47120/npl.9319>

**What is the Truth?**

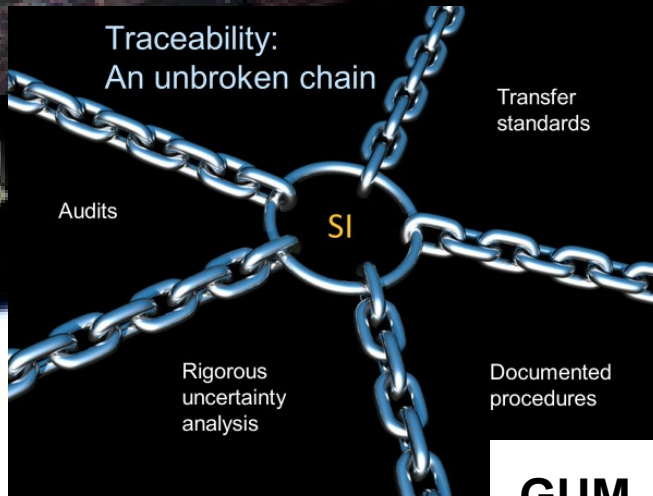


# Long-time-base & societal/economic critical applications like Climate require robust 'trustworthy' data:



e.g detection of small signals of change out of a noisy background of nat variability

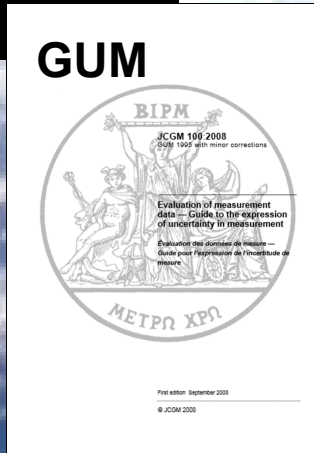
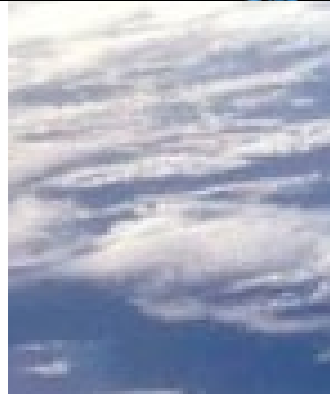
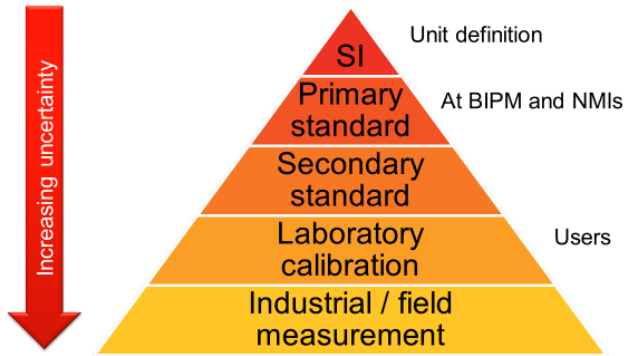
At location of observation



- Interoperable
- Century-long stability
- Coherence
- Absolute accuracy



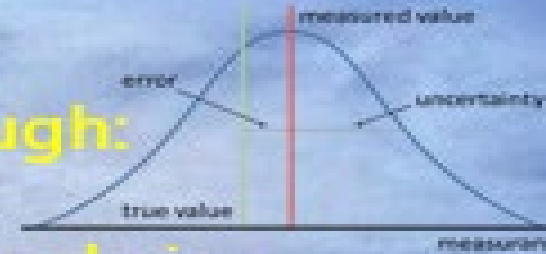
Traceability



Achieved through:

- Traceability
- Uncertainty Analysis
- Comparison

All documented and accessible







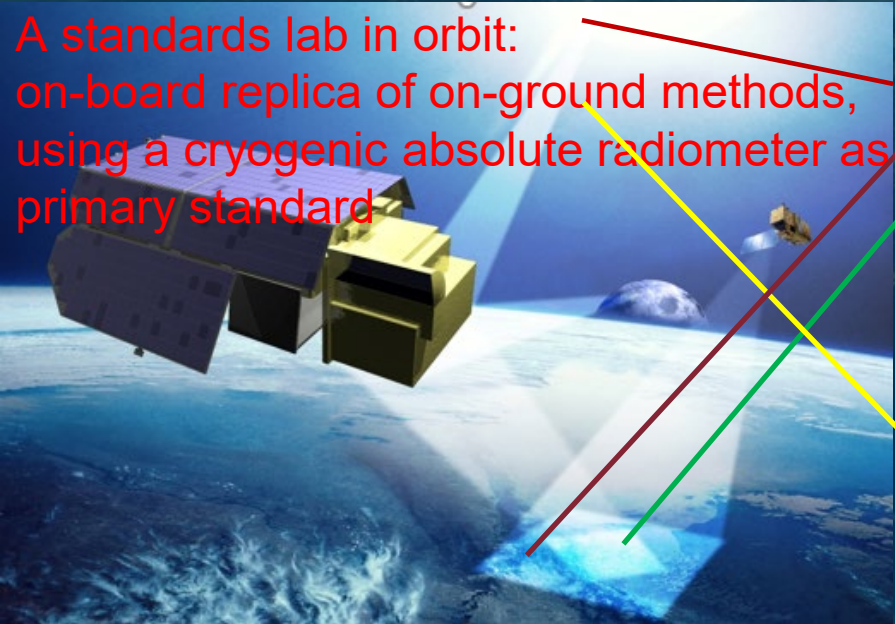


# SITSats and TRUTHS Mission Objectives

**What is a SITSat?:** 'Space borne missions specifically designed, characterised and documented to provide **high accuracy SI-Traceable** 'reference' measurements.' (Evidencing comprehensive uncertainty to SI, 'in-space', of all contributors to observations made from the satellite)

TRUTHS is an **operational climate mission**, aiming to:

A standards lab in orbit:  
on-board replica of on-ground methods,  
using a cryogenic absolute radiometer as  
primary standard



- 1. Climate benchmarking:** enhance our ability to estimate the **Earth Radiation Budget** (and attributions) through direct measurements of incoming & outgoing energy and reference calibration of other ERB & similar missions.
- 2. Satellite cross-calibration:** establish a 'standards laboratory in space' to create a '**gold standard**' reference data set to cross-calibrate other sensors and improve the quality and interoperability of their data through: simultaneous observations, surface reference sites and the moon
- 3. provide SI-traceable measurements of the solar spectrum (incoming & reflected)** to address its impact on climate and interactions with the atmosphere and surface

A **benchmark measurement** is one with characteristics (documentation, SI-Traceable uncertainty, representative sampling) that allows it to be unequivocally considered a 'reference' of the specified measurand against which future measurements of the same measurand, can be compared.



# What does TRUTHS do?

**Measures incoming and earth reflected radiation from the sun**

- 320 to 2400 nm @ ~4 nm intervals (1 nm for solar UV)
- Global nadir @ 50 m ground resolution with 100 km swath (capability)
- Target uncertainty of 0.3% (k=2)

**Establishing a benchmark of the radiation state of the planet at ToA (radiance/reflectance) & BoA surf reflectance to help enable:**

## Observations

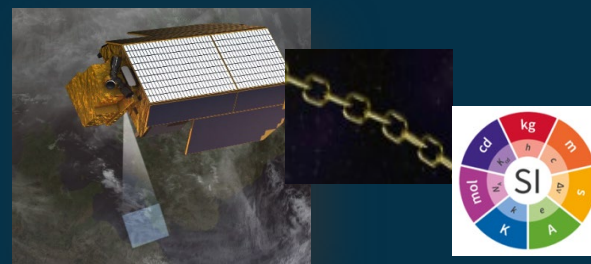
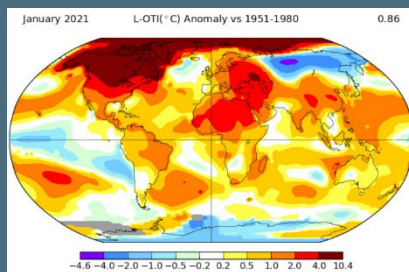
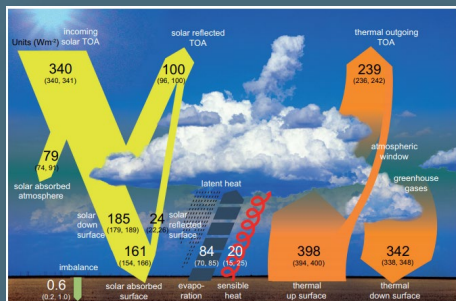
- Benchmark
- monitoring
- Litigation
- algorithm improvement

## Calibration

- Interoperability
- data-gaps
- performance
- Utility

**Climate action: Supporting 'Net Zero'**

## Climate sensitivity/response



## Climate action/mitigation



## Adaptation/sustainability



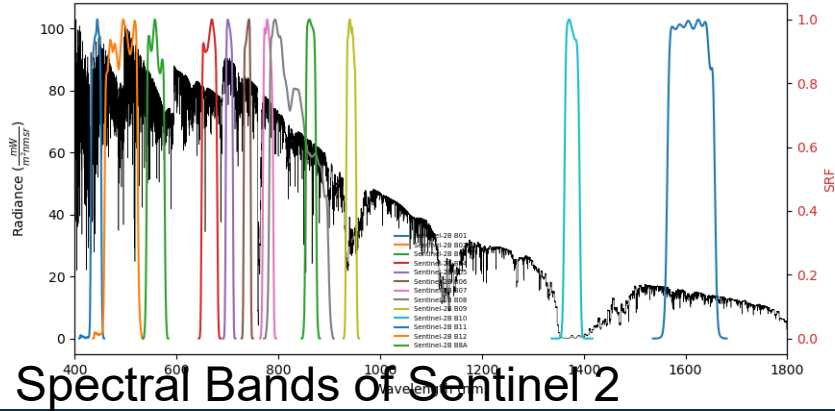




# Transferring TRUTHS accuracy to other Sensors: establishing mission requirements (S2S calibration)

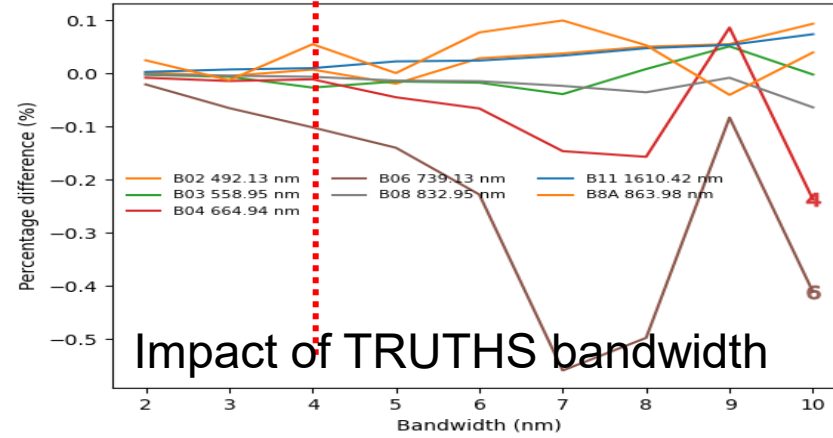
(Fahy, Hunt, Stedman, Gorrono)

Graph of Sentinel-2B msi SRF overlaid on simulated TOA radiance spectrum (from libRadtran)

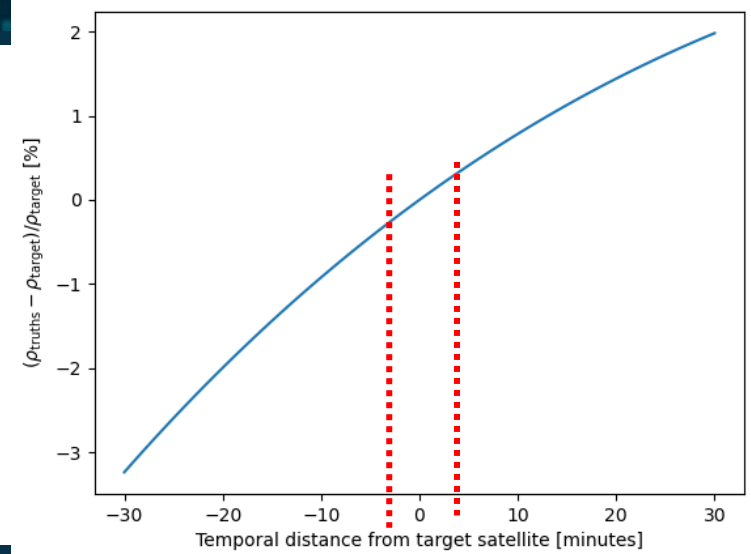


Spectral Bands of Sentinel 2

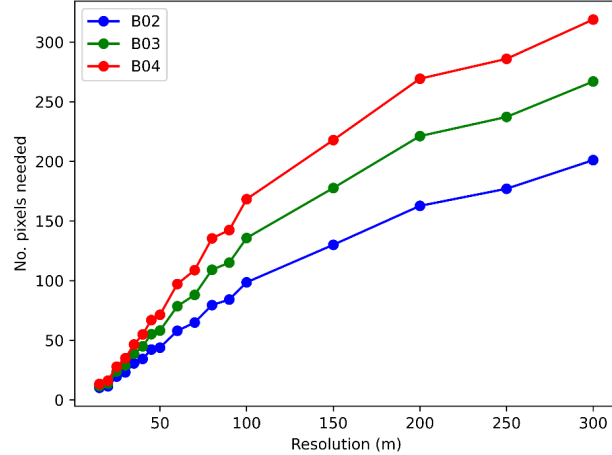
Graph of percentage difference between Sentinel-2B msi band integrated radiances using TRUTHS radiances vs libradtran simulated radiances (BW = SSI)



Impact of TRUTHS bandwidth

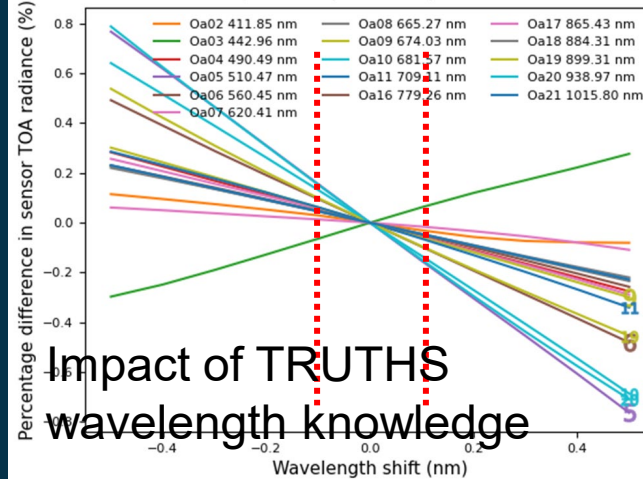


No. pixels needed to achieve  $u=0.2\%$  for Libya ROI (5490 x 5490)

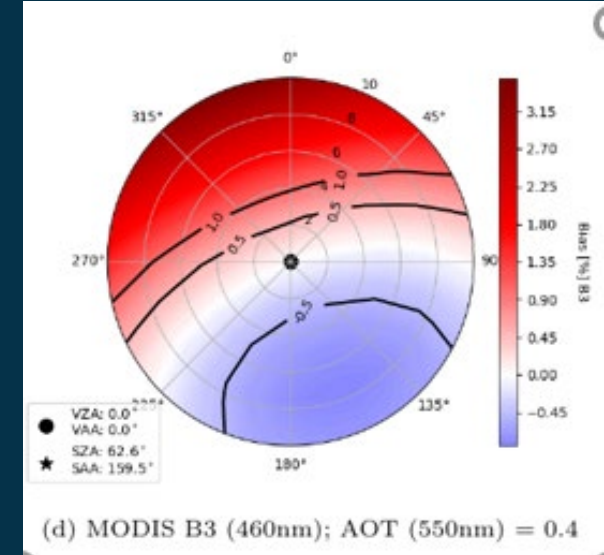


Uniformity of Cal Target (Libya 4) area to be sampled (2.5 km to achieve 0.2% @ 50 m)

Graph of percentage difference in Sentinel-3A olici TOA radiance due to wavelength shift in TRUTHS (SSI = 4 nm, BW = 4 nm): Ocean



Impact of TRUTHS wavelength knowledge

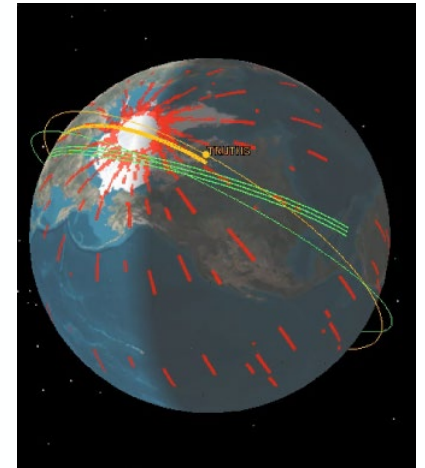
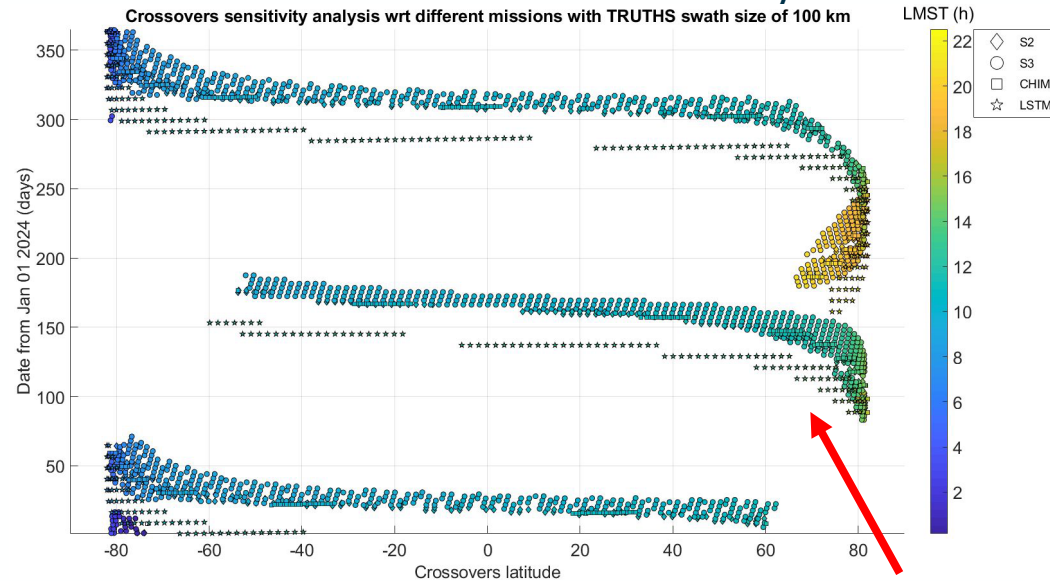
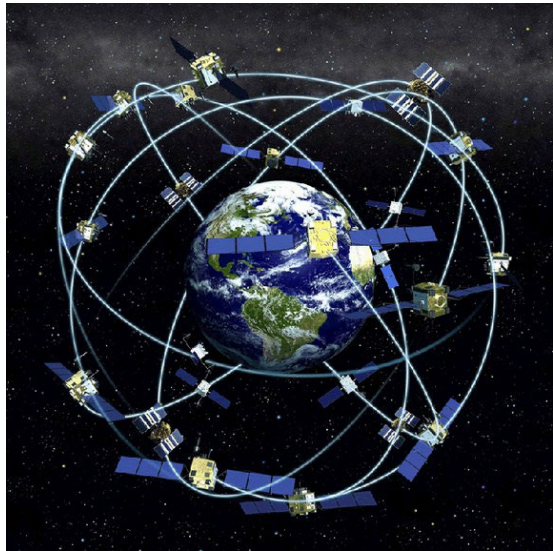


(d) MODIS B3 (460nm); AOT (550nm) = 0.4

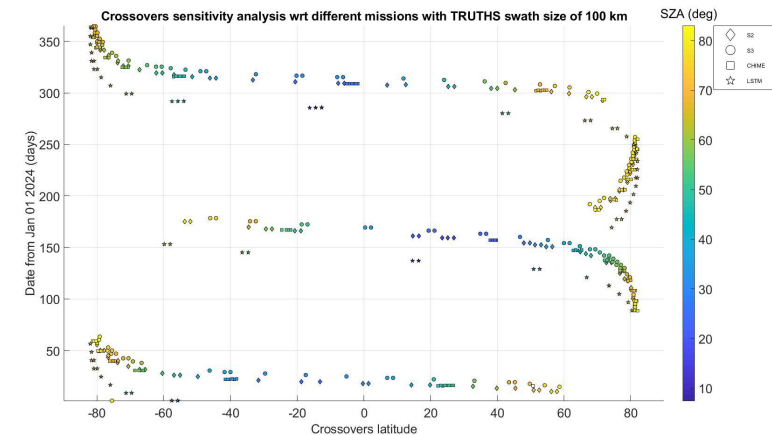
# Reference Calibration

- Enables interoperability & Harmonisation
  - Prospect of 'certified calibration'

TRUTHS 90° pole to pole orbit, observing through the diurnal cycle, allows many opportunities to overpass orbit of sun-synchronous sensors



Summary after 6 months



TRUTHS provides the means to transform global EO system, including constellations of micro-sats so they deliver traceable scientific/climate quality observations -

<30 s time difference Swath overlap

1 year of near perfect nadir overlaps for TRUTHS & satellite under test

(<1° (no pointing) <30 s time difference



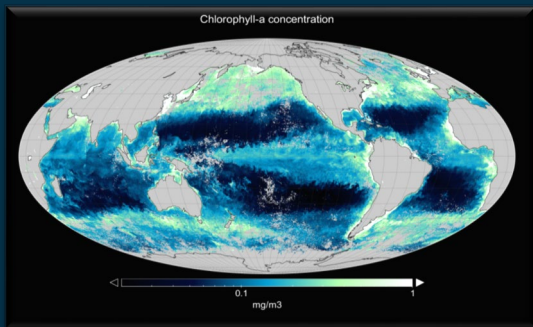
# Uncertainty budget for TRUTHS – satellite comparisons (Gorrono et al)

Uncertainty	Best S2 bands	Worst S2 bands
Spectral resolution TRUTHS	0.1 %	0.6 %
Spectral accuracy TRUTHS	0.1 %	0.2 %
Spatial co-alignment mismatch	0.1 % (Libya) 0.12 % (La Crau)	0.1 % (Libya) 0.5 % (La Crau)
30 minute time difference (atmospheric effects)	0.1 % (if corrected)  0.3 % (if atmosphere not known)	0.1 % (if corrected)  2 % (if atmosphere not known)
30 minute time difference (surface BRF)	0.2 %	0.4 %
<b>Combined with reasonable corrections</b>	<b>0.4 % - 0.5 %</b>	<b>0.7 %</b>

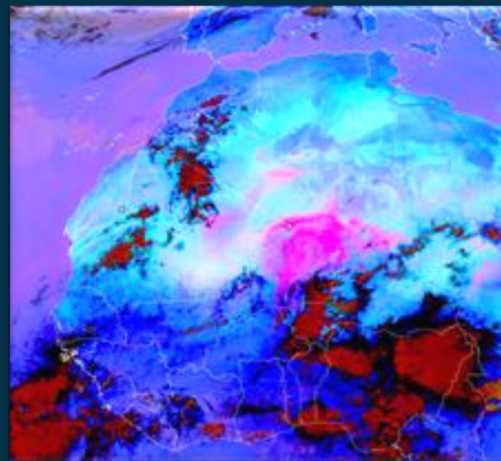
# TRUTHS: Underpinning operational ECV retrievals for climate monitoring, data set harmonisation, data-gap risk mitigation and model improvement

TRUTHS contributions	Climate data records
Provides reference calibration	Cloud properties, ozone, aerosol optical depth, greenhouse gases
Provides reference calibration AND direct observation	Solar irradiance, Earth radiation budget, surface albedo, cloud cover, cloud particle size, water vapour, ocean colour, ice and snow cover, vegetation indices such as leaf area index, land cover .....

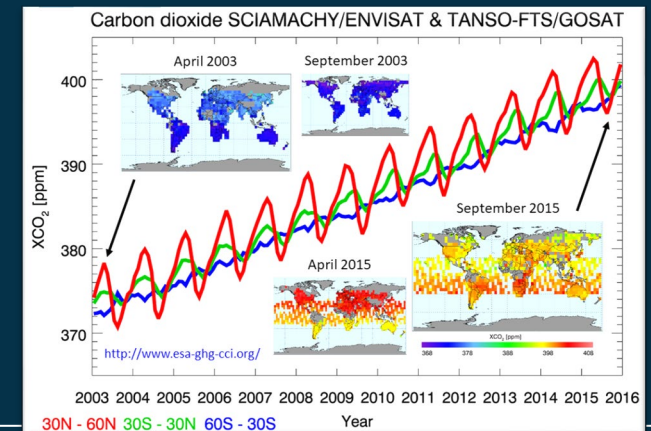
- **Ocean colour:** direct TOA cross-calibration of sensors to absolute radiometric accuracy of ~0.5%, meeting GCOS requirements – global 200 m observations but poor temporal coverage



**Aerosols:** “Climate closure points” unifying ground networks and multiple optical sensors through the TRUTHS FCDR.



- **GHG:** Referencing Copernicus and multi-agency CO<sub>2</sub> constellations at 0.5-1.0% radiometry through cross-calibration. Large scale GHG emissions detection





# Hyper-spectral applications: 'Analysis Ready' (ARD)

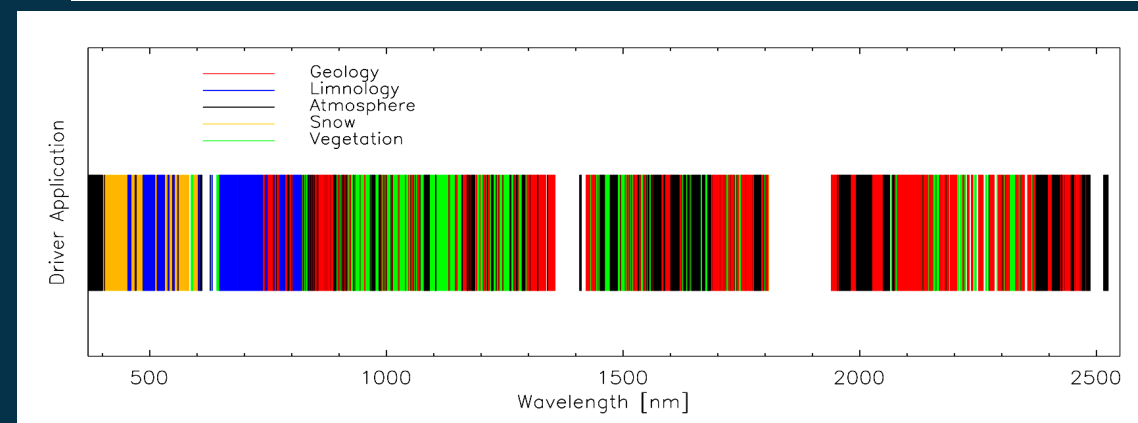
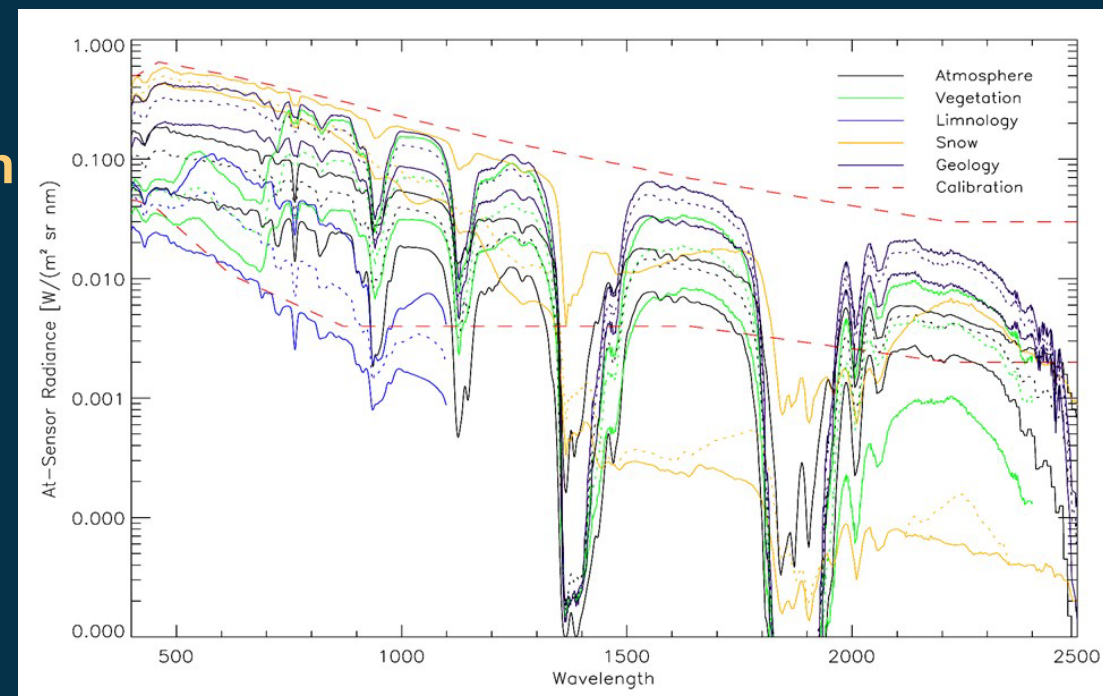
## Surface reflectance

Hyperspectral data can be convolved for many applications enabling an earth system science approach (not temporally critical applications (61 day repeat))

- Directly
- Upgrading other sensors
- Test & Improve retrieval algorithms
- Validation establishing references surface reflectance e.g. Fluxnet

Complementary to EnMAP, PRISMA, CHIME, SBG ....

- Land-cover change
- Forest
- Surface Albedo
- Agriculture
- Pollution
- Resource prospecting
- .....



# System Drivers: 90 deg precessing 61 day, ~605 km polar orbit for satellite cross-cal & for uniform diurnal sampling for Climate benchmark



Driving requirements in Red

Climate 'Benchmark'

Earth Observation



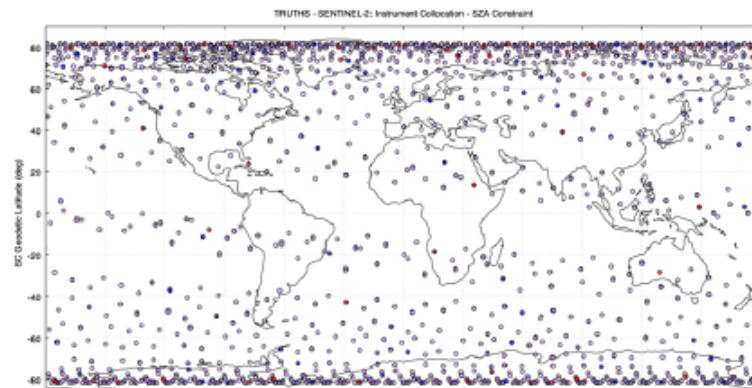
Level 1/2	Mission Requirement						
	Application	Spectral range (nm)	Spectral Resolution (SSI) (nm)	Uncertainty (%) (k=2)		SNR @ sensor SSI & 50 m	GIFOV
				G	T		
Earth spectral radiance (Climate)	350-2200 320-350 2200-2400	<10 - 20 nm	0.3 <1.0	<1.0 <3.0	>~20 @0.3 albedo >15	<300 m (scene ID) 10 - 100 km gridded	
Solar Spectral Irradiance	<320 - 2400	<1 (<400), <5 (<1000) <10 (<2400)	0.3	<1.0	>1000 (time integration)	NA	
Total Solar Irradiance	200-30000	NA	<0.02	<0.05	>10000 (time integration)	NA	
Climate Sensor Cal/Val	320-350 350-800 800-2400	<20 <4 <6-8	0.3	1.0	>15 @0.3 albedo (large footprints)	<300 m~1000 m(UV)	
Earth sensor (Cal/Val)	<380 ~2400	<4 (< 1000 nm) <8 (>1000 nm)	<1.0	<2.0	>100 @ 0.4 albedo	<50 - 100	
Ocean Colour	<350 -1000	<10 - 20 <4 Cal	<0.5	<2.0	>25 @~0.1 albedo (<400 nm) >50 (400 - 490 nm) >40 (>490 nm)	<300 m Cal/Coastal <~1000 m for Ocean	
Land Surface Imaging	~380-1000 1000-2400	<10-20 <20	<1 <2	<2	>100 @0.3 albedo >60	<50-100 m	
Atmosphere	400 - 2400	<5 - 10	1	2	>100	<100 - 1000	
Lunar Irradiance	350 - 380 380 - 2400	<~20-30 <~10-20	0.3	1	>1000 (time averaged)	NA	



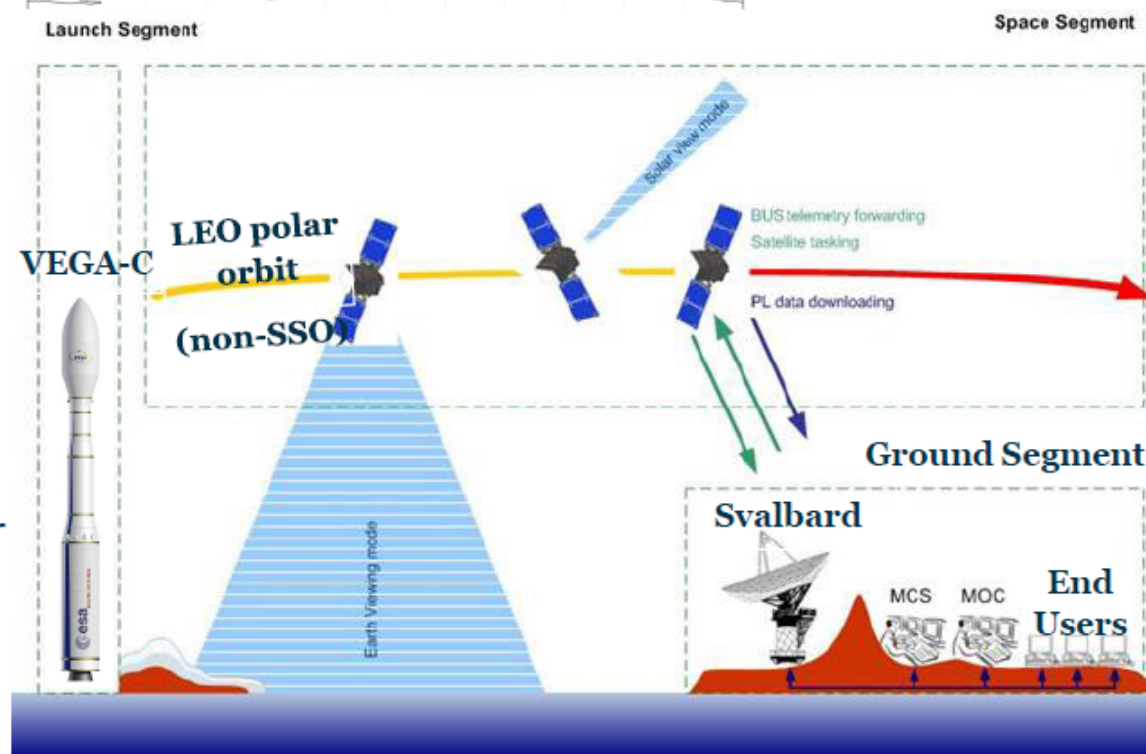
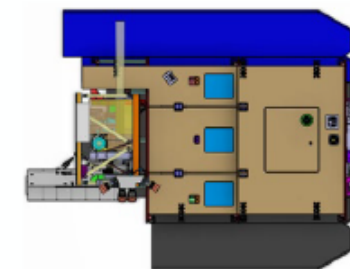


# System Architecture

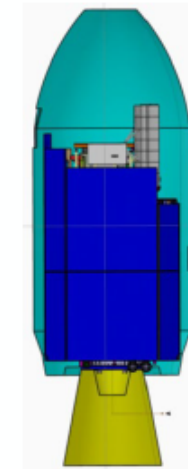
- Lifetime 5 years + 3 extension
- Space Segment:
  - Orbit 614 km, polar (90°) non-SSO
  - 1 satellite – agile, design for non-SSO
  - Novel Payload
- Launch Segment:
  - Vega-C (-E) single launch
  - Option co-passenger explored
- Ground Segment
  - 1 polar station baselined, lossless compression baselined
  - LEOP/early commissioning @ ESOC
  - Routine FOS in UK (Flight control center hand-over before IOCR)
  - PDGS in UK + data access at ESRIN (ESA open data access policy)



Space Segment



Launch Segment

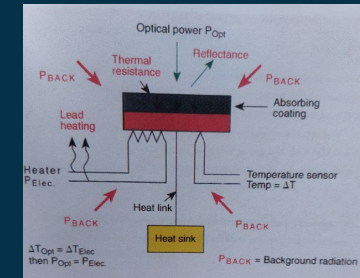
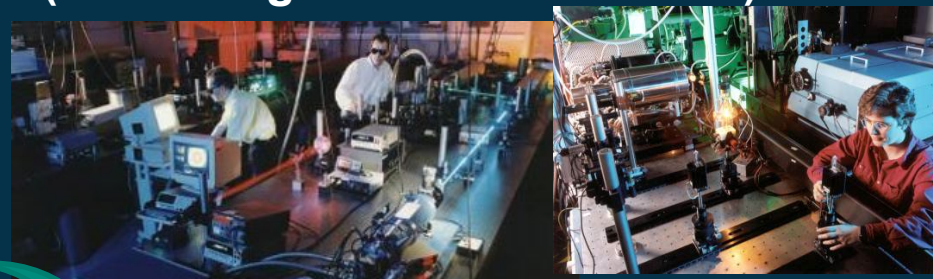




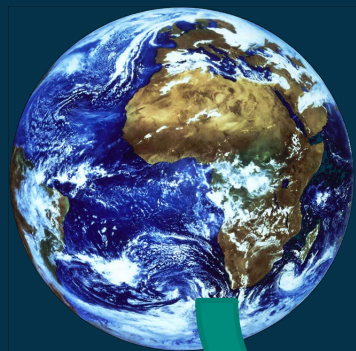


# Metrology laboratory in-space

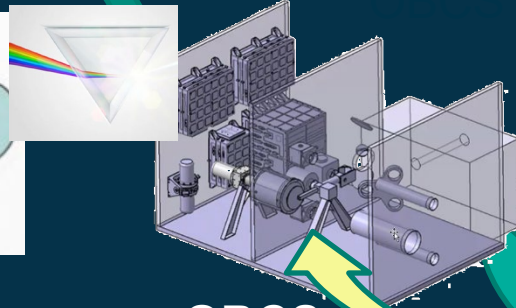
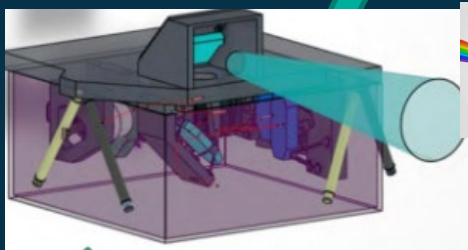
- Measuring energy from the sun, providing the direct traceability to International Standards (CSAR)
  - **Compares heating effect of optical power with electrical power (Volt)**
- ‘Camera’ (Hyperspectral Imaging Spectrometer, HIS) observing the direct incoming and Earth reflected sunlight at high spectral and spatial resolution
- Novel on-board calibration system (OBCS) ensuring traceability to the absolute reference (Cryogenic, 60K, Solar Absolute Radiometer, CSAR) (mimicking terrestrial methods)



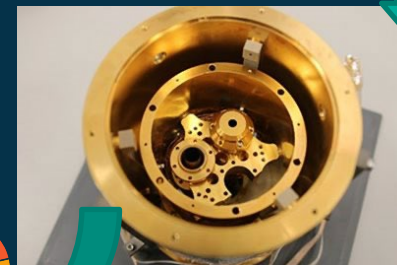
Link to SI  
= Volt



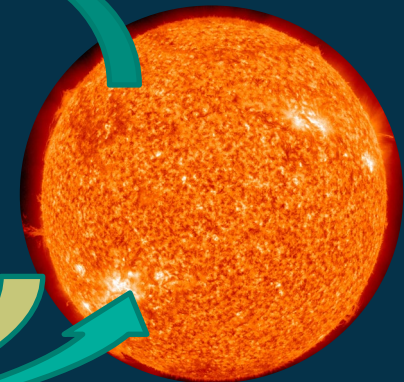
HIS



OBCS

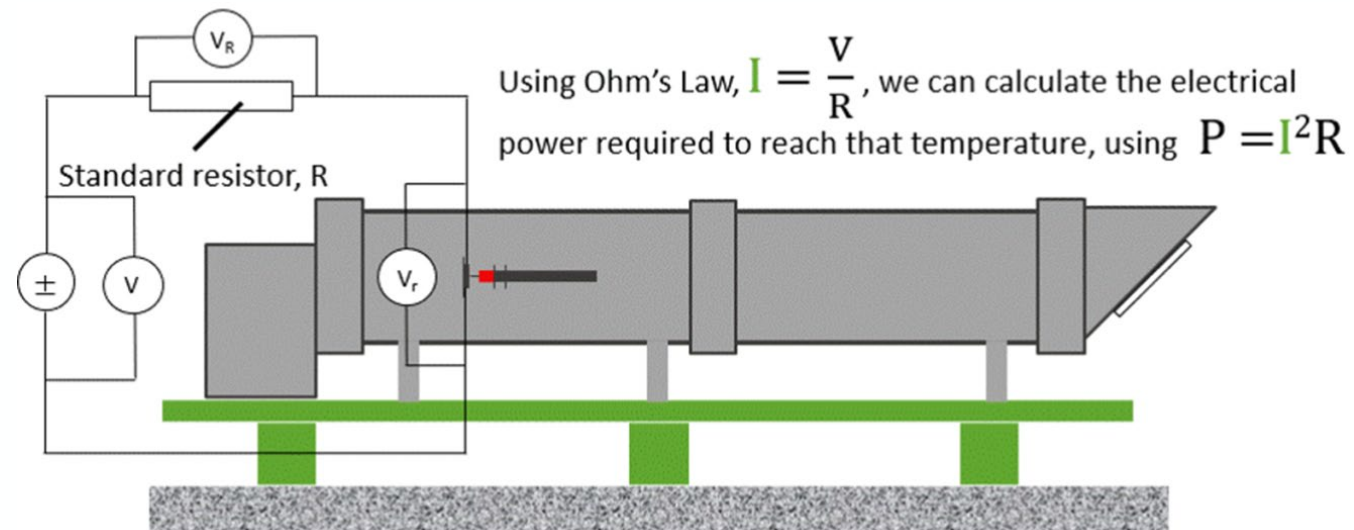
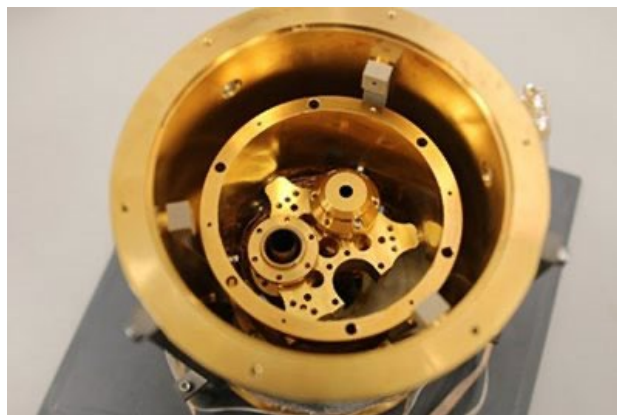
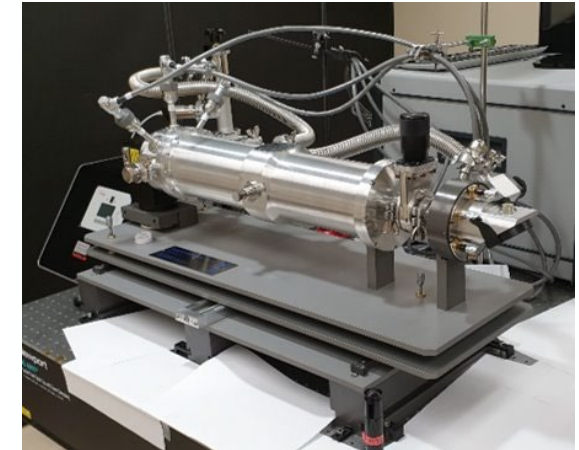
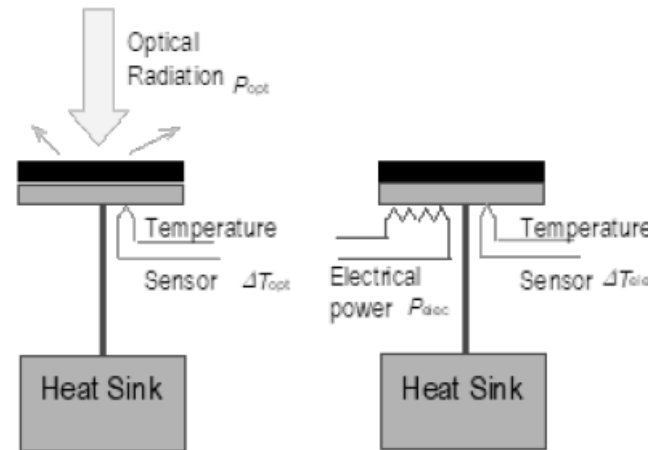


CSAR



# In-Orbit Primary Standard – CSAR: (RD01, Rev 36)

- Cryogenic Solar Absolute Radiometer (CSAR)
- Evolution of the terrestrial cryogenic radiometer used for four decades in NMIs
- Electrical substitution method (equivalence in optical and electrical heating of a cavity) (>120 yrs of use)
- Traceable to electrical standards - V &  $\Omega$
- Performance limited to cavity absorptance (>0.99995)
- Stability of Voltage Ref





# TRUTHS on-orbit calibration philosophy: (Rev 36)

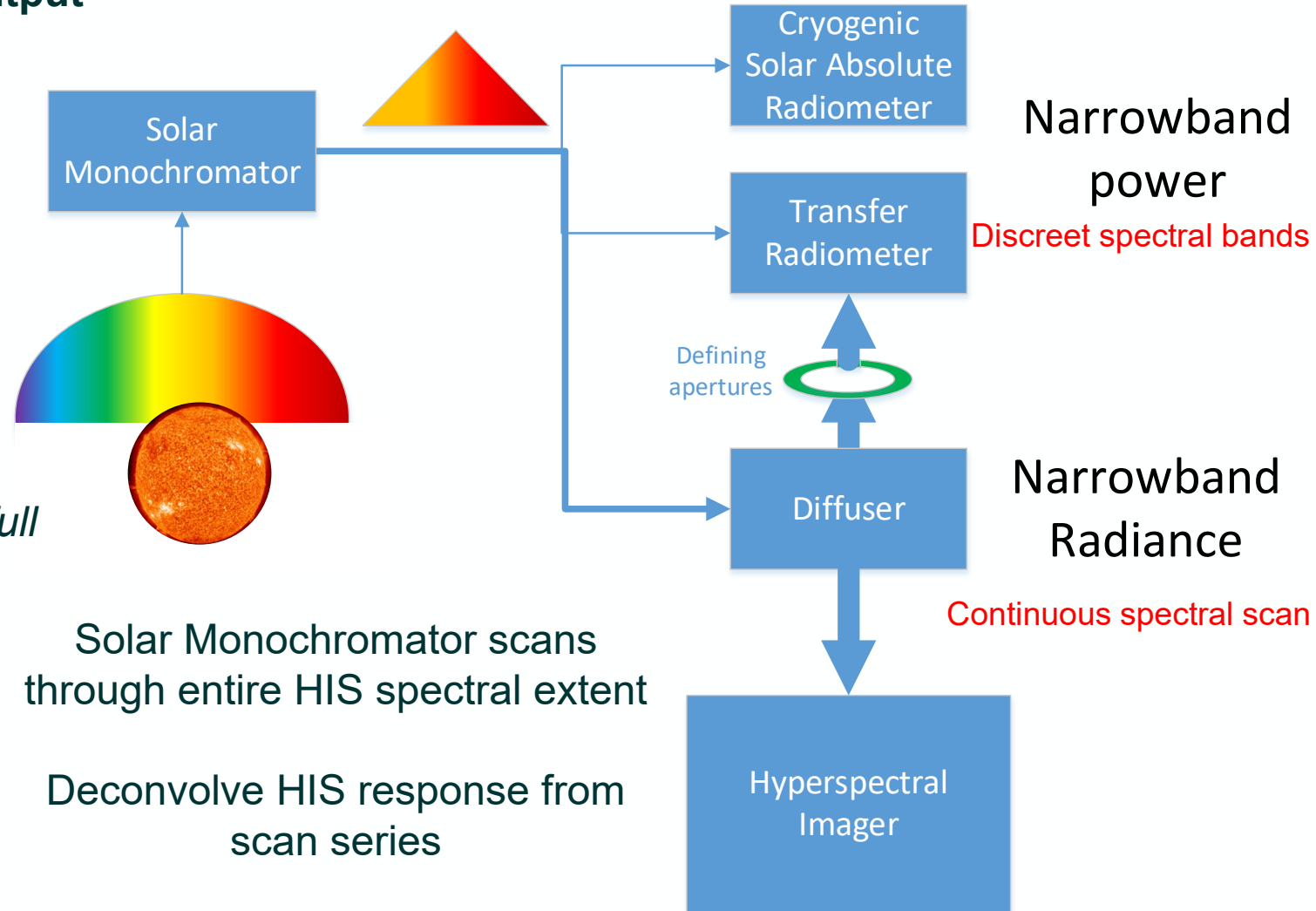
## 1. CSAR measures optical power in SMC output then calibrates TR

*SMC generates beam of 'monochromatic radiation from sun which can be distributed to different parts of the calibration system*

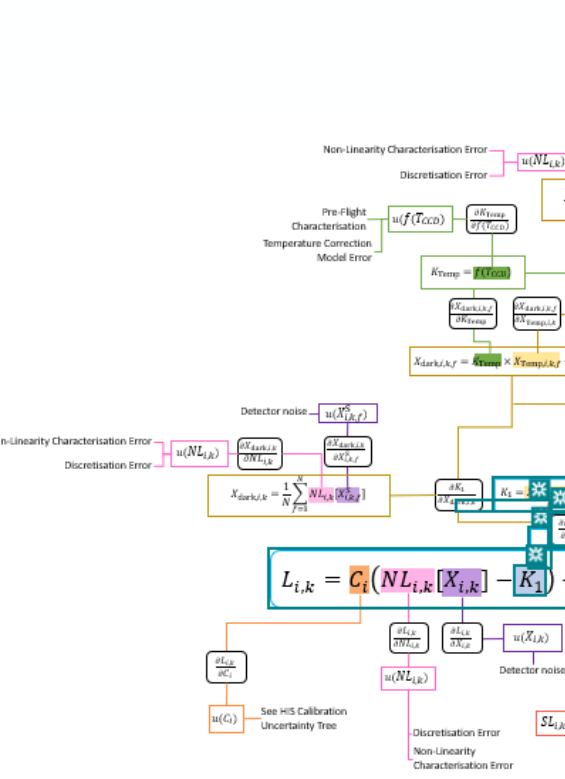
## 2. The transfer radiometer (TR) serves two purposes

*Conversion from power to radiance  
Intermediate 'fast' radiance reference allowing full spectral calibration of HIS*

## 3. Concept of Operations based on geometric knowledge & stability, Calibrating out in-flight degradation only repeatability assumptions based on mechanical and thermal control.



# Open access data with full transparency of uncertainties and traceability – a ‘metrology lab in space’



CSAR power correction						
Name of effect	Cavity temperature characterisation error (Shuttered)	Cavity temperature characterisation error (open)	Sensor reference resistor voltage fluctuation error	Reference resistor characterisation error	Cavity sensitivity characterisation error	
Affected term in measurement function	$T_{cav, c}$	$T_{cav, i}$	$V_{r\_cav, i}$	$R_{r\_h\_cav}$	$S_{cav}$	
Image error-correlation type, form and scale	Across track ( $k$ )	Systematic	Systematic	Random	Systematic	Systematic
	Along track ( $f$ )	Systematic	Systematic	Systematic	Systematic	Systematic
	Between spectral pixels ( $i$ )	Systematic	Systematic	Systematic	Systematic	Systematic
Uncertainty	PDF shape	Rectangular	Rectangular	Gaussian	Rectangular	Rectangular
	units	K	K	V	$\Omega$	$KV^{-1}$
	magnitude	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Source						
Sensitivity coefficient	$\frac{\partial L_{i,k}}{\partial T_{cav, c}}$	$\frac{\partial L_{i,k}}{\partial T_{cav, i}}$	$\frac{\partial L_{i,k}}{\partial V_{r\_cav, i}}$	$\frac{\partial L_{i,k}}{\partial R_{r\_h\_cav}}$	$\frac{\partial L_{i,k}}{\partial S_{cav}}$	

Neighbouring Pixel Detector Noise

Fahy & Hunt

TRUTHS HIS Earth Radiance Uncertainty Tree

‘effects table’ for each error source

- Upto ~4 Tbytes a day download
- UK ‘Data processing hub’
- Baseline ‘archived’ Level 1B products
  - ToA Earth, Moon, Sun
- Toolbox to enable customisable ‘on-demand’ processing of Level 1B, 1C and 2 (BoA reflectance) with pixel level uncertainties
- Coefficients to facilitate sensor SI-traceability and/or recalibration
- Unequivocal litigation quality data

Fiduceo like analysis of end to end traceability and uncertainties – an exemplar for other missions

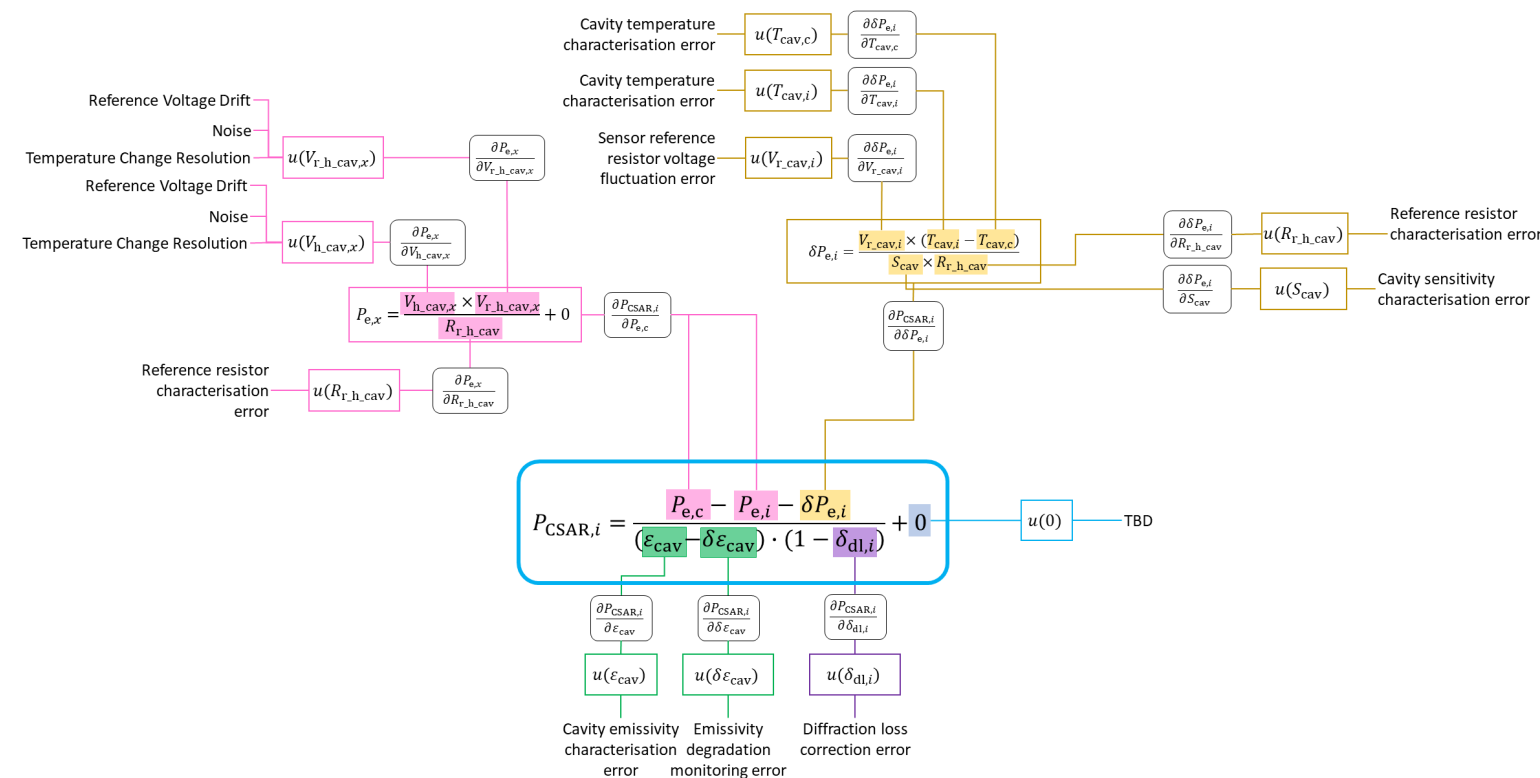




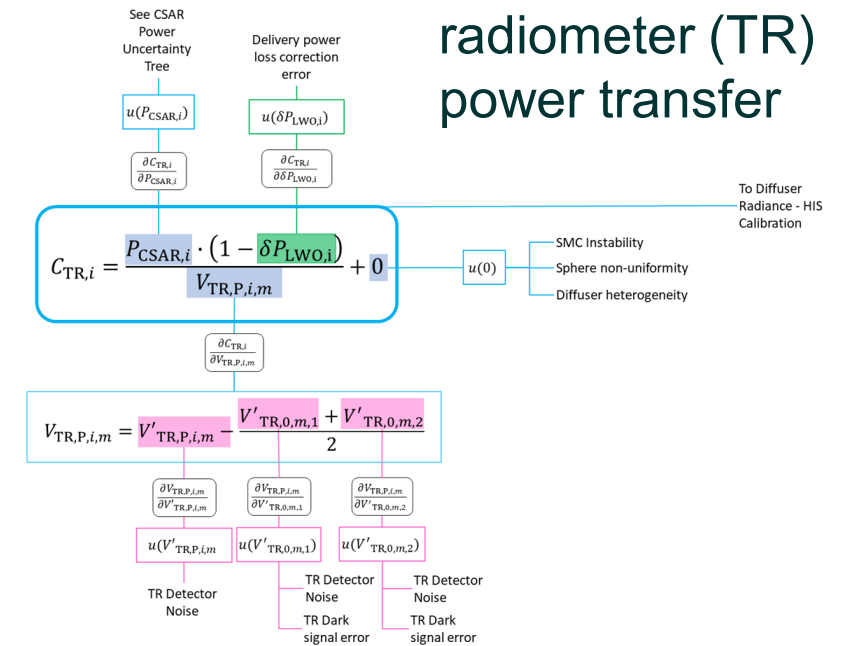
# Application of metrological principles: (RD04, Rev33,36)

Establish measurement equation and errors sources together with associated uncertainties for the end to end measurement. Subdivided into modules for convenience. This allows to define critical paths and contributors including pre-and on-board calibration and characterisation and ultimately basis for coding as simulator

## CSAR power calibration

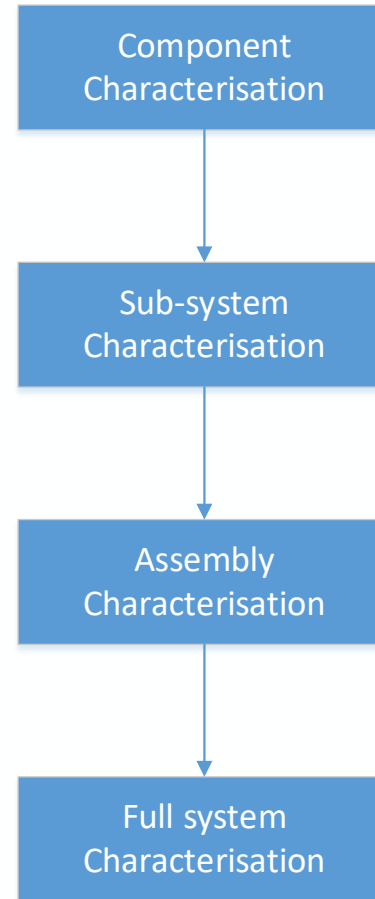


## Transfer radiometer (TR) power transfer



**Objective: to confirm design/build specification and to facilitate comparison with Terrestrial SI-standards**

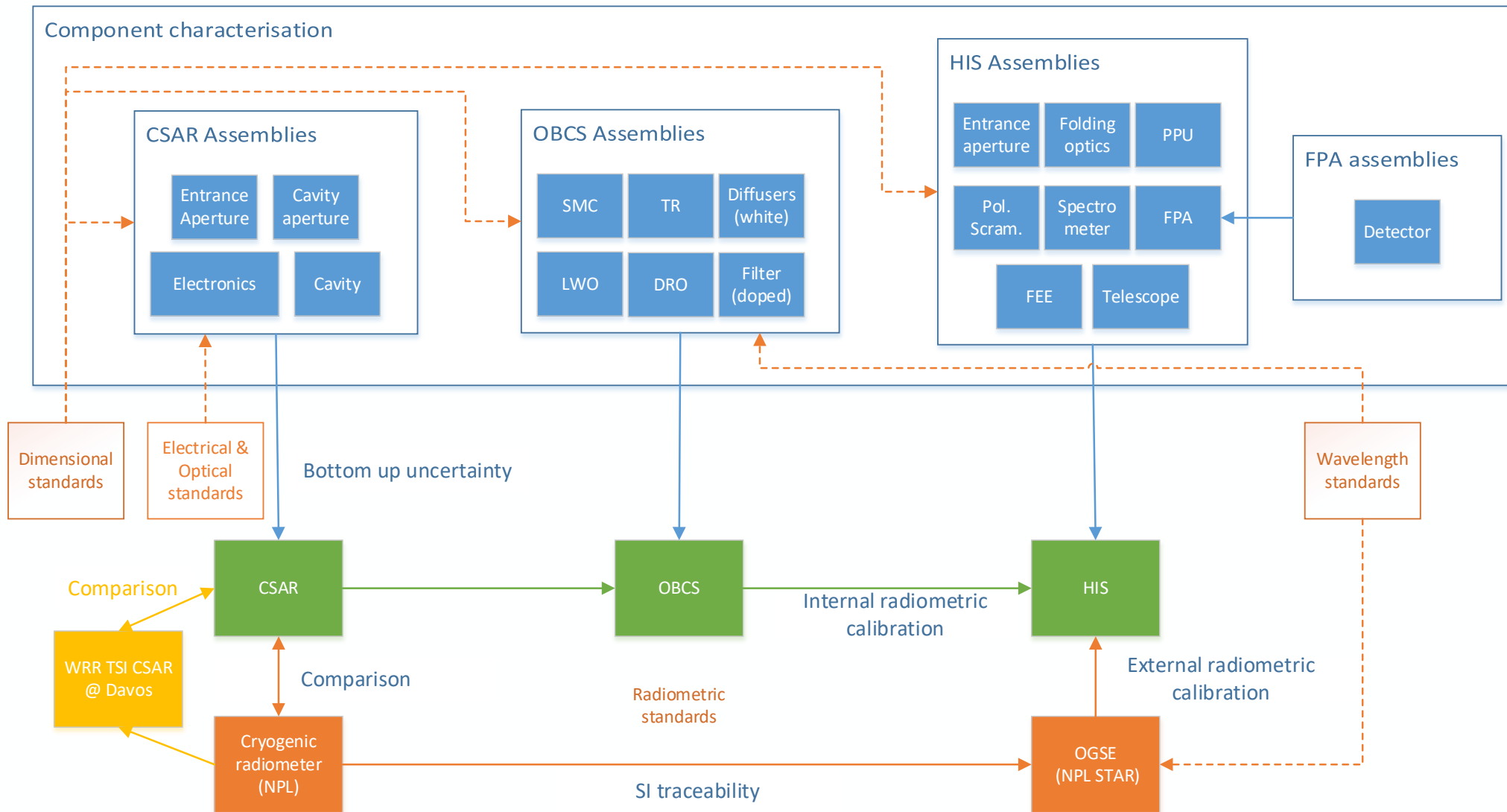
- Tiered hierarchy of characterizations and calibrations
- Mirrors the uncertainty budget bottom-up approach
- Includes algorithm approach and concept of operations assumptions.



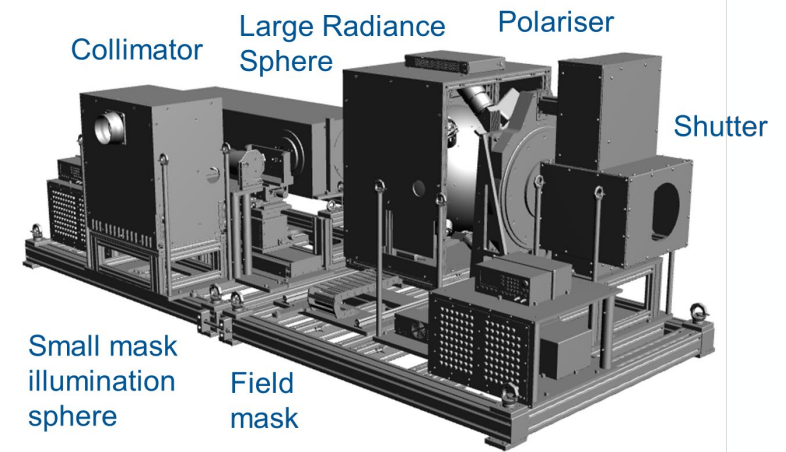
Cryogenic Solar Absolute Radiometer (CSAR)	SMC	TR
Entrance Aperture area		
Cavity aperture area		
Coating		
Cavity manufacture		
Diffraction model		
V & Ω references		
Straylight		
Effective emissivity		
Cavity time constant		
Shutter radiation		
Cavity Electronics		
Thermal stability control		
Redundant cavity equivalence		
Terrestrial CR comparison		
V & Ω calibrations		
Integrated performance		



# Pre-flight radiometric calibration philosophy



- STAR-CC-OGSE provides radiometric calibration and characterization of satellite sensors.
- Fully automated and SI-Traceable
- The main components of the STAR-CC-OGSE system are:
  - A collimated beam source, with field mask for optical performance (geometric) characterization & 200 mm diameter exit port integrating sphere for flat-field radiometric calibration.
  - A CW laser allowing monochromatic continuous tuneability from 260 nm to 2700 nm with a broadband (white light) source extending over the same spectral extent (for both illuminations).
  - A vacuum-compatible SI-traceable radiance detector module containing both broadband photodiodes & a spectrometer, installable in TVAC at the sensor-under-test entrance aperture







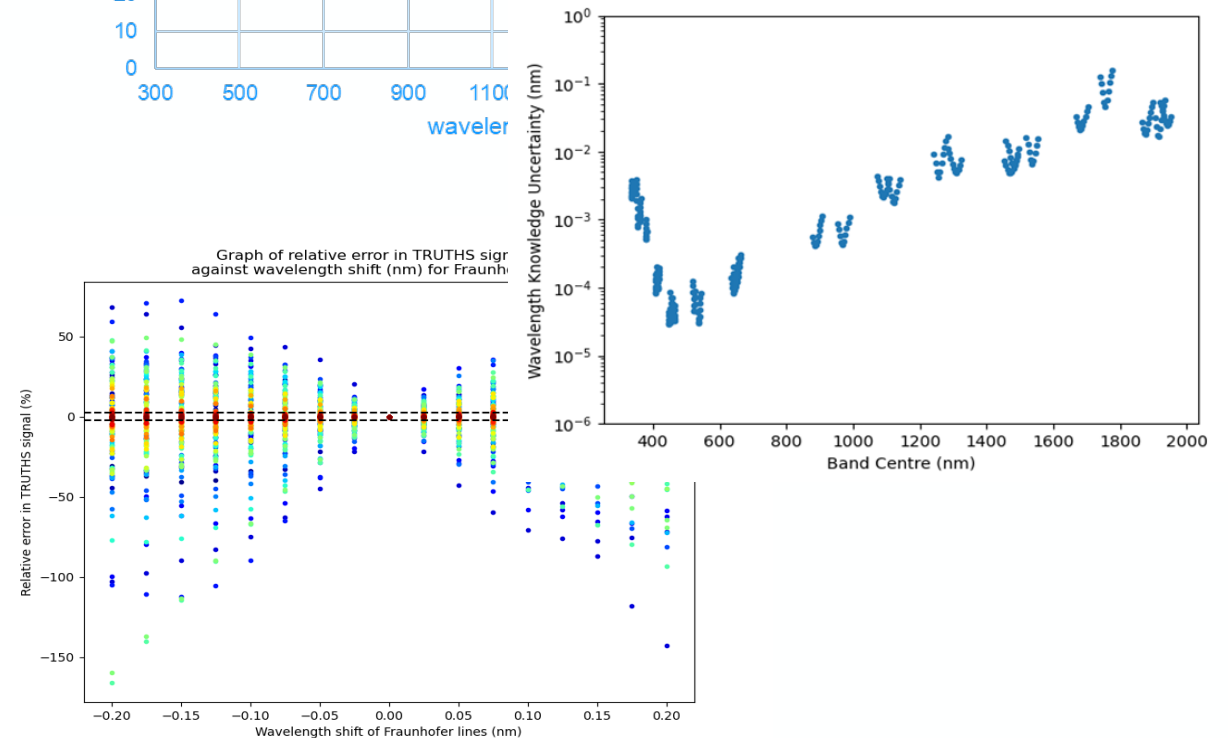
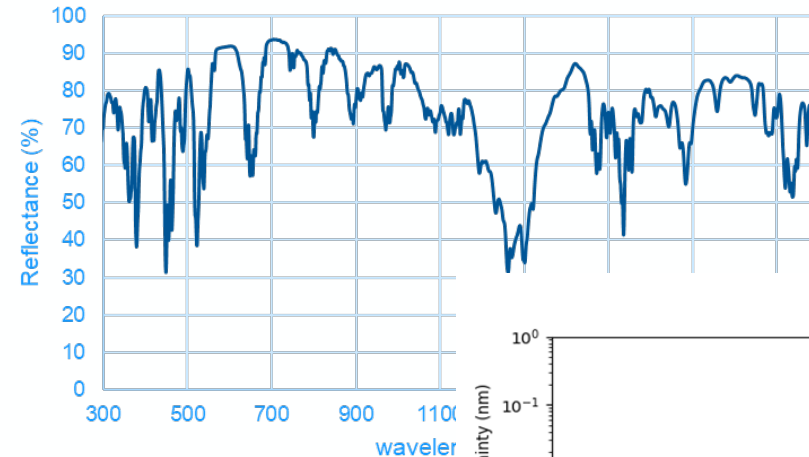
## Fraunhofer lines

- 33 identified lines/groups
- 300 nm - 900 nm
- Use Solar spectral irradiance observation – few seconds
- <math><0.025\text{ nm}</math> accuracy est.

## Onboard Rare-earth oxide doped filter reference

- Features over 300 – 1950 nm
- Solar illuminated convolved with Fraunhofer lines, but feature width allows reliable determination.
- <math><0.1\text{ nm}</math> accuracy est.

Overlap region adds confidence.



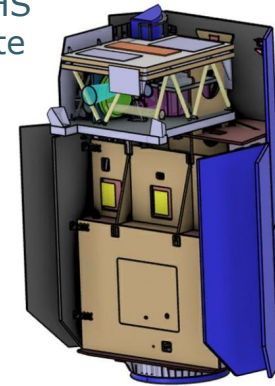




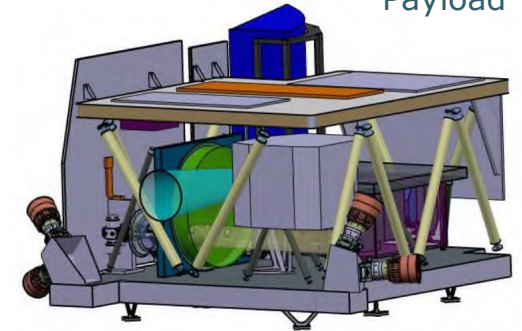
# Completing Phase A/B1 to provide a mature concept

- Agile Platform recurrent from **CRISTAL**
- Payload key technical features:
  - ✓ **HIS**: Four-mirror anastigmatic telescope, Offner (two-prisms) spectrometer, single MCT detector at 150 K, thermally stable optical bench.
  - ✓ **CSAR**– three high-absorbance cavities, operated at 60 K with cryocooler, design heritage of NPL (UK) and PMOD/WRC (CH)
  - ✓ **OBCS** (On-Board Calibration System) – traceable set of absolute wavelength anchors (solar monochromator + TBD filter ), high-dynamic transfer radiometer, precise and stable wavelength scanning mechanism, relay optics, diffuser to HIS
  - ✓ **Calibration process**: novel methodology, heritage of metrology lab (NPL), rigorous traceability of uncertainties, need for demanding on-ground calibration
- Pre-developments running for all critical items (detector, coating, CSAR, mirror, calibration detectors...)
- Phase A/B1 led by Airbus UK completed Mid June.
- Gate review (July 22) confirmed technical, scientific and programmatic maturity of the proposed solution ready for subscription in CM 22

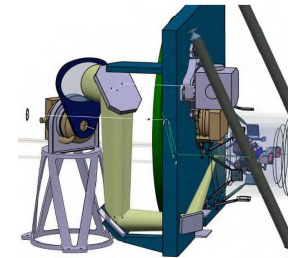
TRUTHS satellite



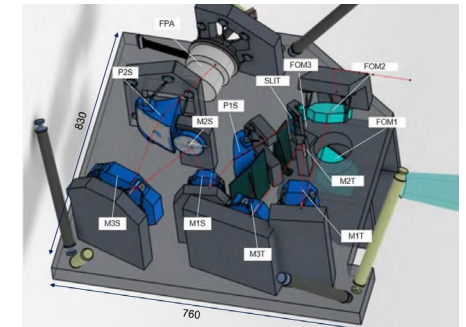
TRUTHS Payload



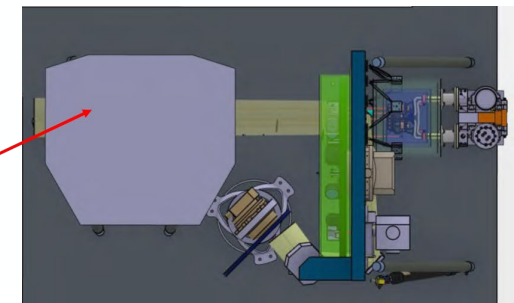
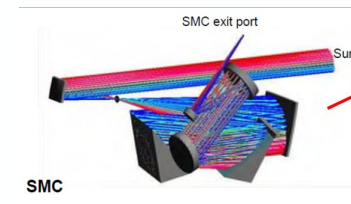
CSAR layout/OBCS I/F



HIS layout



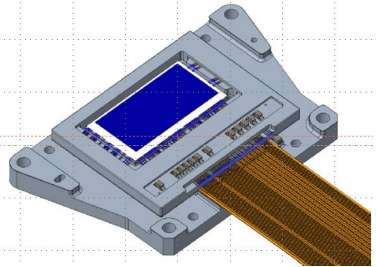
SMC - OBCS layout



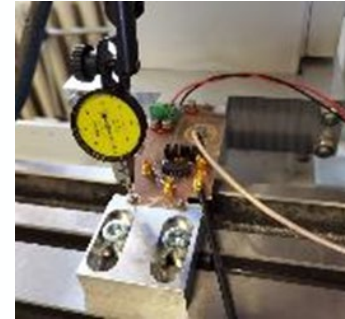
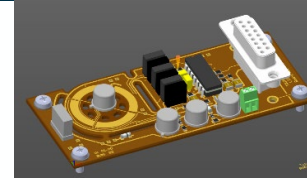
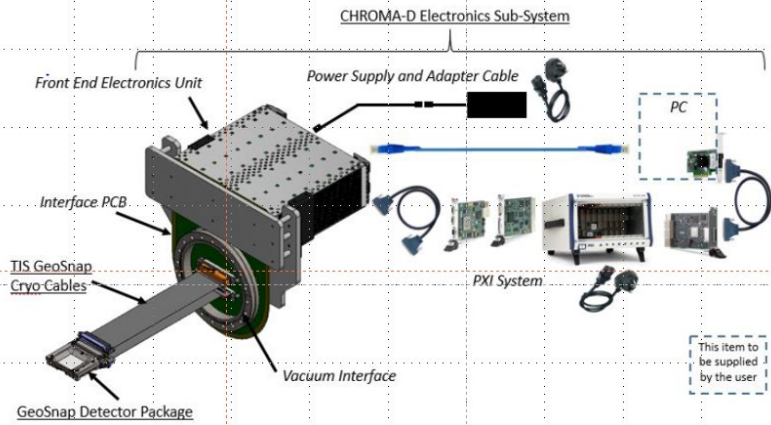
All images courtesy of Airbus, PMOD, NPL



## T-E2V Detector layout and FEE test assembly



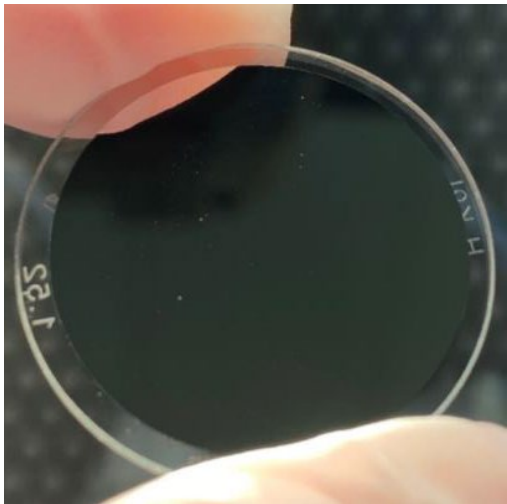
1K X 2K CMT array



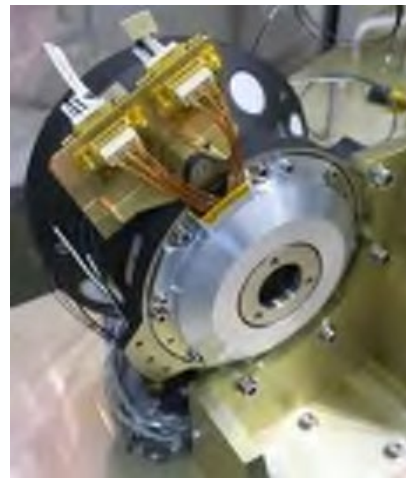
## CSAR Voltage Ref: LTZ1000 Board



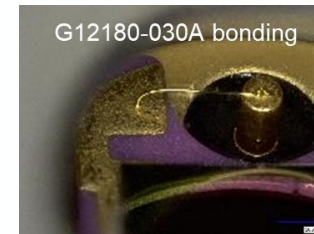
## Mirror coatings



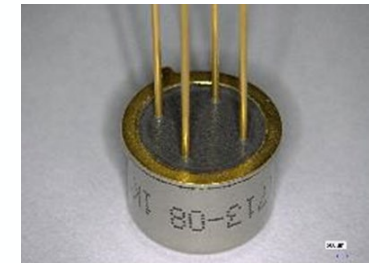
## WSM actuator: TRISHNA EM



## CA OBCS TR photodiodes



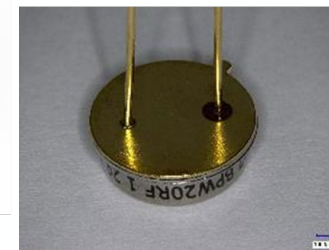
Visual Inspection



K-1713-08 dual-colour



X-ray

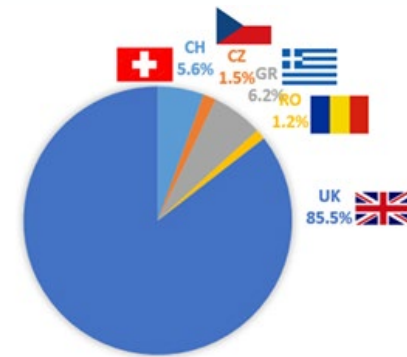




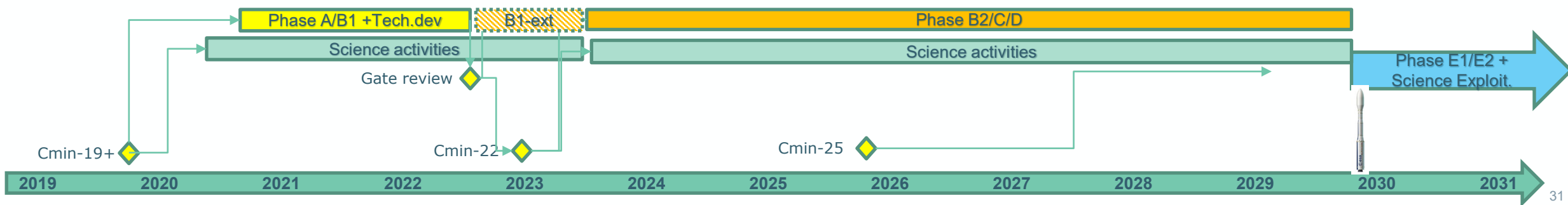


# TRUTHS Timeline

- TRUTHS was proposed by UKSA in May 2019 as a new Earth Watch (EW) Element.
- TRUTHS Phase A/B1 has been fully subscribed at Space19+ by 5 Participating Countries: UK (85.5%), GR (6.2%), CH (5.6%), CZ (1.5%), RO (1.2%)
- Industrial Phase A/B1 system studies and technology predevelopments initiated in Oct-20.
  - Phase-A kicked-off in Oct-20 and completed at end-July 2021
  - Phase B1 completed in Q2-2022 \_ extended for technology maturing and to bridge to B2 phase to start in 2023. (TRL 5/6 by Phase B2 and SRL 5)
- Mission Advisory Group (MAG): Science/Engineering/User expertise primarily from Europe (not limited to funding nations) inc NASA CLARREO Pathfinder
- Programmatic “Gate Review”: go decision, taken in July-22, to submit program to CM-22
- Phase B2/C/D/E to be funded at CM-22/-25 -> Program plan being currently prepared



TRUTHS A/B1 SUBSCRIPTION - @SPACE19+







# Phase AB1 team



## Agencies

Swiss Confederation  
Confédération suisse  
Confederaziun Svizra  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation  
Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research ERAC  
State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI  
Swiss Space Office

CSO  
COSMOS SPACE OFFICE

EAO  
EUROPEAN AEROSPACE ORGANIZATION

rosa

esa

UK SPACE AGENCY

AIRBUS

deimos  
eleonor group

ThalesAlenia  
Space

SONOVISION

NASCO

RAL Space

pmod wrc

ISD SA  
Integrated Systems Development

planetek  
hellas

CGI

NPL

SURREY

UNIVERSITY OF  
LEICESTER

GOONHILLY  
SPACE CENTRE

toptec

SWISSOPTIC  
BERLINER GLAS GROUP

TELESPIAZIO  
a LEONARDO and THALES company

TELEBYNE Q2V  
L'Espresso Group

National Centre for  
Earth Observation  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Swansea  
University  
Prifysgol  
Abertawe

Universität  
Zürich

Imperial College  
London

UCL

## Science institutes

## Industrial Consortium

ThalesAlenia  
Space

deimos  
eleonor group

ISD SA  
Integrated Systems Development

Mission System & Instrument  
tasks

NPL

RAL Space

planetek

OPSI/E2EMS

NPL

RAL Space

Calibration Activities

CGI

TELESPIAZIO  
a LEONARDO and THALES company

Ground Segment

Skills & capability Development

Phase A/B1 SFS

