



chasing ghosts in the atmosphere



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Mission statement

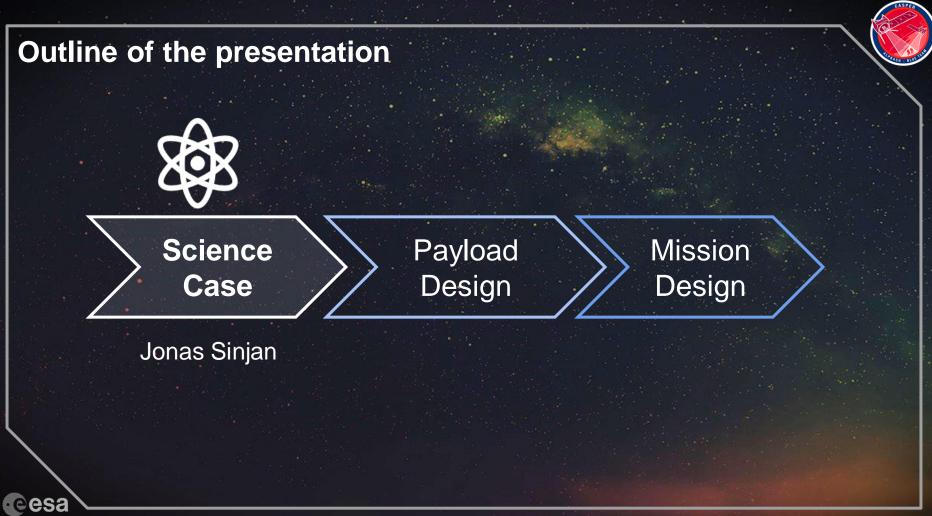


The mission intends to investigate Transient Luminous Events (TLEs) and Terrestrial Gamma Flashes (TGFs).

TLEs and TGFs are plasma discharges in the lower and mid atmospheres, associated with high energy events emitting light, x-rays and gamma radiation. TLEs and TGFs are linked to high energy electrons.

The upper layer of the atmosphere is one of the least investigated areas of the atmosphere, due to the difficulty of reach. However, the TLE and TGF phenomenon has changed our understanding of the interaction between the atmosphere and the ionosphere.





 In 1989 'Sprites' were first captured from ground

- Since 1989 many different types were detected
- Collectively called
 Transient Luminous
 Events (TLEs) and
 Terrestrial Gamma
 Flashes (TGF)

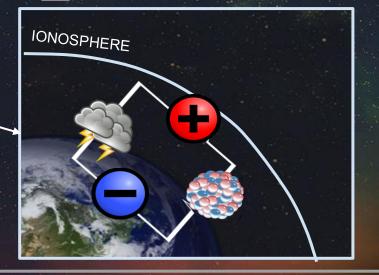
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Discovery ramifications

- Revealed spontaneous transfers of energy from troposphere to the ionosphere
- Could affect chemical balance in upper atmosphere
- Could perturb population in radiation belts
- Could modify the **Global Electrical Circuit**
- New plasma physics mechanisms [Blanc+ 2007]





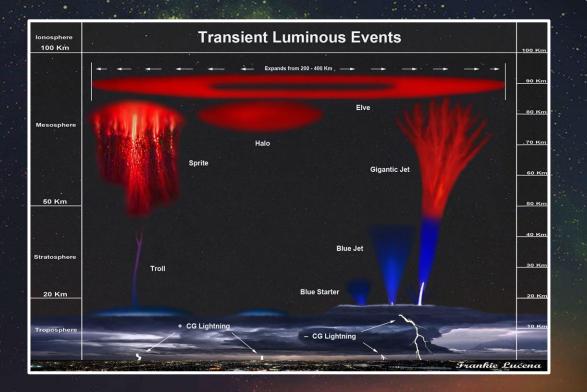
Transient Luminous Events (TLEs)

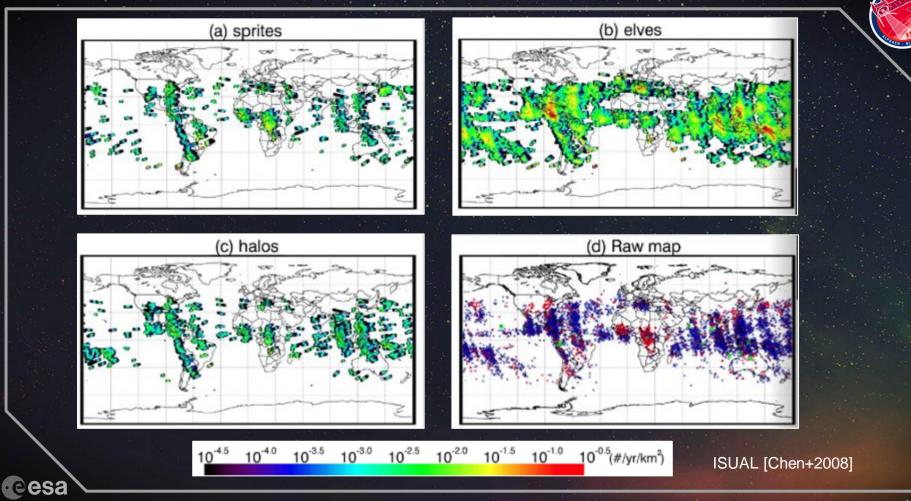
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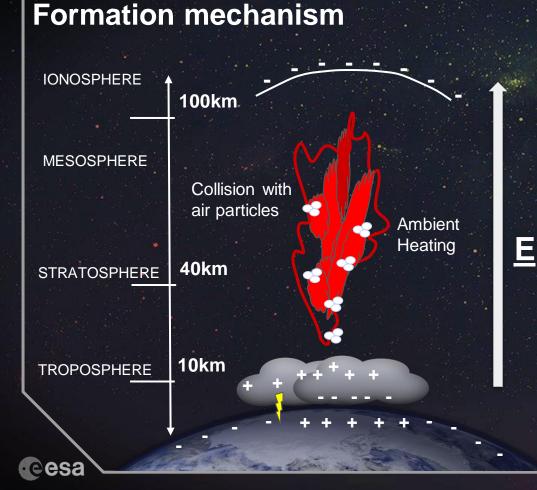


Different types of TLEs

- Lifetime: < 1 5 ms
- Up to 500 km wide
 [Wescott+ 2001; Marshall+. 2006; Kuo+ 2013]
- Altitudes: 20 100 km [Blanc+ 2012]
- Typically seen between
 +65 and -65 deg latitude







Quasi-Electrostatic (QE) Model

- Charge build up in active thunderstorm
- Electric field between thunderstorm and ionosphere
- CG lightning or intracloud discharge triggers TLE
- Ambient heating and ionisation
- Collide and excite nitrogen molecules
- [Pasko+ 1997; Pasko+2006]

Issues with the TLE formation mechanism theory

Some TLEs detected many kilometers away from thunderstorms

- Some have a large temporal delay from lightning (90 ms) [Matsudo et al. 2009]
 - Different types not explained [Blanc + 2007]





Terrestrial Gamma-Ray Flashes (TGFs)

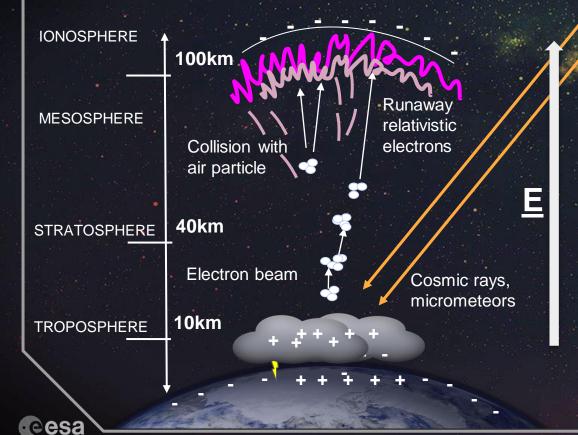


Terrestrial gamma ray flashes

- TGFs are transient gamma-ray emissions, generated by electrons accelerated to relativistic energies in electric fields
- Energetic gamma rays with single photon energies of up to 40 MeV
- Lifetime: 10µs 100µs
- Associated with lightning [Briggs+ 2010; Fishman+ 1994]
- Detected in low latitude regions like TLEs



TGF formation mechanism



- Proposed to be triggered by Cosmic Rays
- Secondary shower of electrons act as seed
- Runaway of electrons up to relativistic speeds

[Gurevich+ 1992, Roussel-Dupré+ 2005]

What is the comparative part of this mission?

New fundamental plasma physics mechanisms



- Theoretical and experimental work has predicted that TLEs should be present on other planets [Yair+ 2009]
- Jupiter
 - The Juno mission observed 11 bright flashes with an average duration of 1.4 ms at 260 km altitude above the 1-bar-level. They have characteristics comparable to TLEs on earth [Giles+ 2020]
- Event comparison between earth and other planets will improve the understanding of the planetary atmospheric electrical activity

Why a space mission?

- Global mapping with large statistics
- Some types of TLEs detected over the ocean
- Range of environmental conditions (solar cycle, season, location, sea surface temperature)
- Absorption of wavelengths from the troposphere when on ground (blue wavelengths) [Chern+ 2003]
- Other options are locally (aircraft, ground, balloon, sounding rockets) and temporally restricted

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Previous & complementary missions

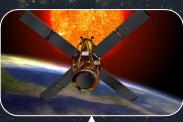
TLE

FormoSat-2/ISUAL (2004-2015)
SpriteSat (lost)



TGF

- RHESSI (2002-2018)
 - Fermi (2008-present)
 - AGILE (2007-present)





- **TLE & TGF** TARANIS (lost) ASIM (2018-present)
- RELEC (2014-2014)

What distinguishes us from previous missions?

- CASPER is the first ever mission to observe upper atmospheric lightning in a stereoconfiguration, allowing us to characterise the vertical structure of TLEs
- The mission will deliver the highest temporal optical imaging of TLEs to date from space

Complementary data



- Sea surface temperature [PO.DAAC]
- Magnetic field eg: Swarm
- Coordinated observations with ground observers [eg: Peng+ 2017]
- Solar cycle activity eg: SDO / STEREO / ACE
- Micrometeorites [Wescott+ 2001]

Expected detected events Q

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Туре	Raw Occurrence /Min	Detections/Mission Year
Elves	3.62	~1800
Halos	0.37	~180
Sprites	0.42	~230
Gigantic Jets	0.01	~5
	Detection Rate / Day	Detections/Mission Year
TGF	0.5	~180
nt 4 years observing	time to collect > 20 GJ	0.09% area/mi

[Hsu+2009, Chen+2008, Østgaard+2019]

Science Objectives and Requirements



Scientific objectives



- SO-1: Constrain the mechanism by which TLEs and TGFs originate and their link
 - SSO1: Characterize the spatial and temporal connection between thunderstorms, TGFs and TLEs
- SO-2: Constrain the extent to which TLEs and TGFs play a role in the interaction between the atmosphere, ionosphere and magnetosphere
 SSO2: Quantify the energy transfer to the upper atmosphere and space
- SO-3: Identify the influence of environmental conditions
 - SSO3: Measure data over a spectrum of different environmental conditions, including but not limited to: solar cycle, sea surface temperature, geographic position



Scientific requirements



SR-1: Global Mapping of TLEs and TGFs

SR-2: Spatially resolve TLEs horizontally and vertically

SR-3: Temporally resolve TLEs and TGFs

SR-4: Measure energy spectrum of the TLEs and TGFs

SR-5: Detect electron flux from TLEs and TGFs

SR-6: Discriminate downward from upward electron fluxes

SR-7: Identify lightning events

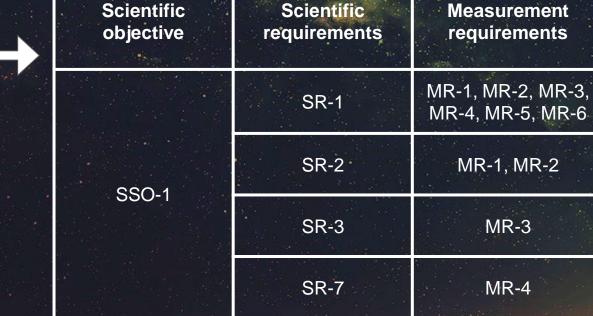
Measurement requirements

- MR-1: Vertical structure
- MR-2: Minimum spatial resolution of 0.5 km (horizontal + vertical)
- MR-3: Minimum temporal resolution of 0.3 ms
- MR-4: Observational wavelengths required
 - \circ SMR-1: 762 nm (mainly N₂ 1P)
 - SMR-2: 777 nm (mainly O_2)
 - \circ SMR-3: 150-280 nm (N₂ LBH UV band) [Blanc, 2010]
 - SMR-4: Gamma rays up to 10 MeV
 - SMR-5: X-rays from 20 keV
- MR-5: Upwards propagating electrons of 10 keV-10 MeV along the magnetic field lines (requires polar orbit)
- MR-6: Downwards propagating electrons of 30 keV-300 keV

Traceability matrix

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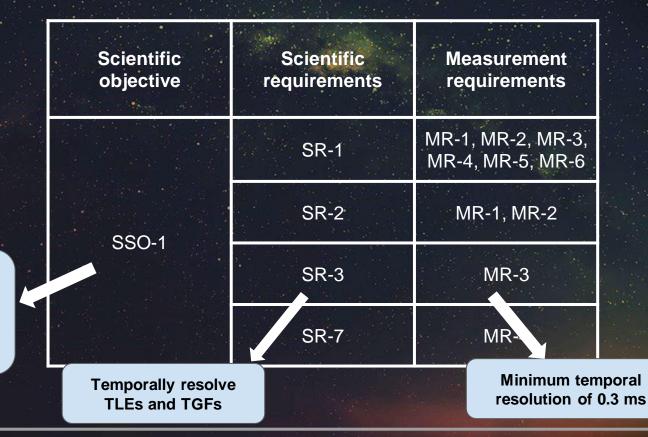
Scientific objective	Scientific requirement	Measurement requirement
SSO-1	SR-1	MR-1, MR-2, MR-3, MR-4, MR-5, MR-6
	SR-2	MR-1, MR-2
	SR-3	MR-3
	SR-7	MR-4
SSO-2	SR-2	MR-1, MR-2
	SR-3	MR-3
	SR-4	MR-4
	SR-5	MR-5
SSO-3	SR-1	MR-1, MR-2, MR-3, MR-4, MR-5, MR-6
	SR-2	MR-1, MR-2
	SR-3	MR-3



Traceability SSO-1



Traceability SSO-1



Constrain the mechanisms by which TLEs and TGFs originate

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Outline of the presentation



Gwendal Henaff



System drivers

INSTRUMENTS

ORBITAL CHARACTERISTICS

MISSION DESIGN

Spatial + temporal resolution
Electron flux measurement
Emission wavelengths

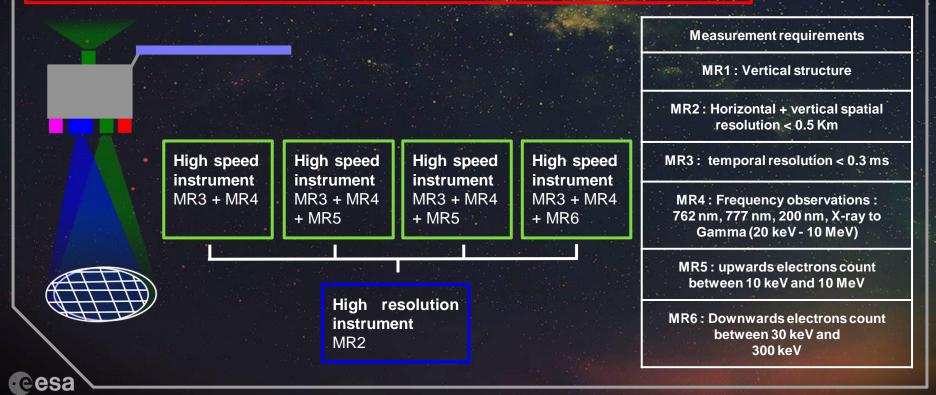
StereographyGlobal coverage

Electron flux measurement

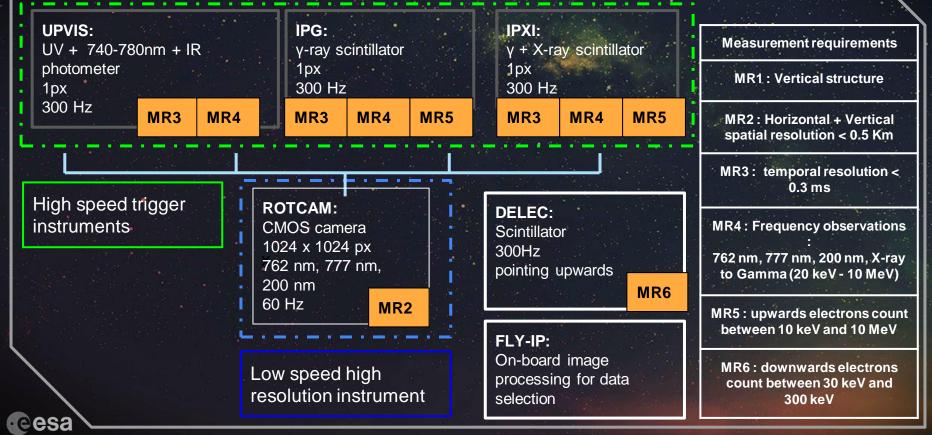
Data volumePower

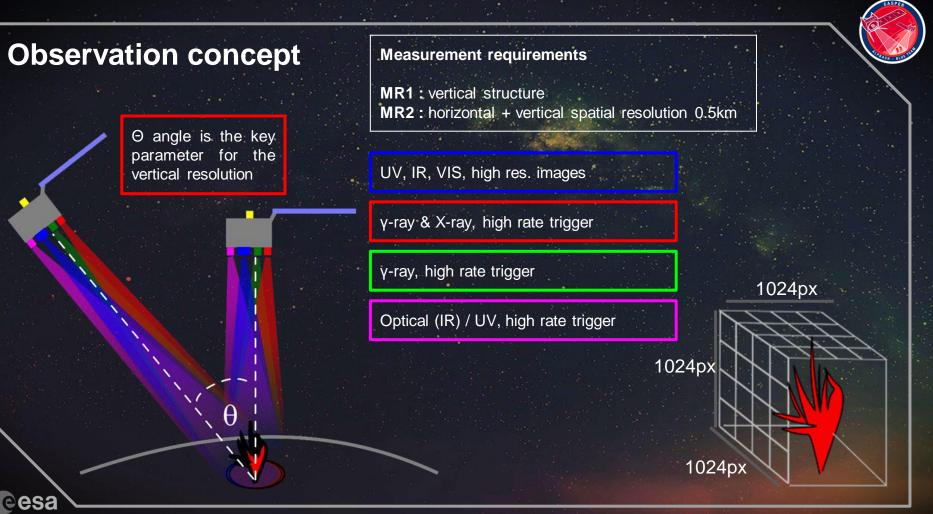
On-board instrumentation

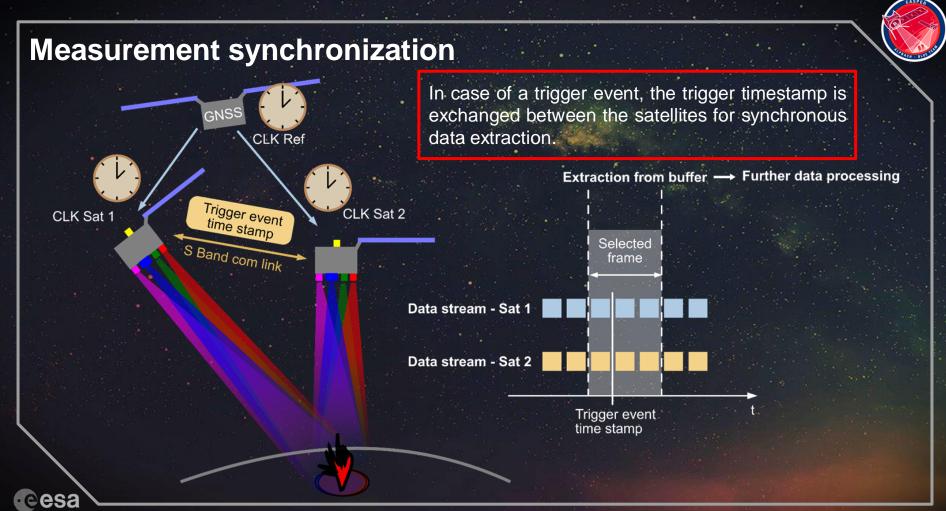
High speed (MR3) and high resolution (MR1 + MR2) needs : conflicting requirements



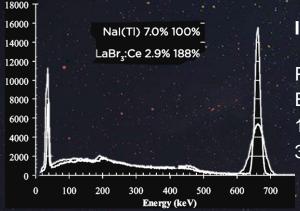
On-board Instrumentation







Fast trigger-X-ray, gamma, electrons



IPG / IPXI / DELEC

Photon range : 20 keV to 10 MeV Electrons : 1 MeV to 10 MeV 1 pixel 300 Hz



Three versions:

- DELEC : No filter, pointing upwards
- IPXI : No x-ray shield, pointing downwards
- IPG : With x-ray shield pointing downwards,

gamma measurements

IPXI (X-ray)

IPG (Gamma)

Fast trigger-X-ray, gamma, electrons

IPG Photon range : 60 keV to 10 MeV

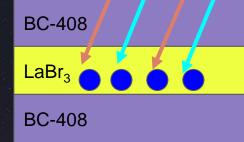
Gamma and X-rays with X-ray shield IPXI Photon range : 20 keV to 10 MeV

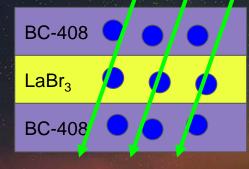
Gamma and X-rays

DELEC Electrons : 1 MeV to 10 MeV

BC-408 LaBr₃ BC-408

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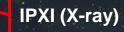
Fast trigger-X-ray, gamma, electrons

IPG / IPXI / DELEC

- Crystal scintillators
- High voltage power supply
- PMT

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Readiness :	TRL 8, no flight heritage		
Power :	~2W		
Effective area :	~ 900 cm²		
FOV :	40°		
Mass (individual) :	~500 g		





DELEC (e-)

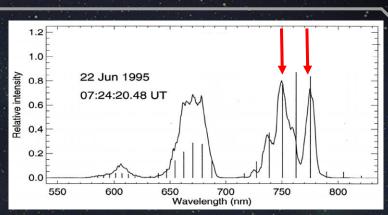
Fast trigger-UV/IR/optical

UPVIS - Optical photometer

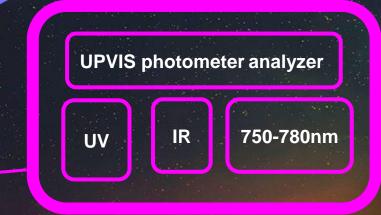
- Most intense line of the N₂ at 750 -780 nm
- 762 nm for sprite
- 777 nm for lightning
- N₂ Lyman-Birge-Hopfield (LBH) UV band system from 150 to 280 nm

Photometer analyzer

- Photomultiplier
- High voltage supply
- Acquires signals from the sensor



[Hampton+1996]





Fast trigger-UV/IR/optical



Readiness :	TRL 7, no flight heritage		
Power :	<6 W		
FoV :	40° (nadir) 12° (limb)		
Mass :	~2.5 kg		
Size:	185 x 127 x 200 mm		



Imaging detectors

3 ROTCAM

- Teledyne Ruby EV76C660 Wavelengths:
 - 1. Ultraviolet (193-400 nm)
 - 2. Visible (400-700 nm)
 - 3. Near Infrared (700-1000 nm)
- CMOS 1280x1024 px (1.3 MP)
- Image size 1024 x 1024
- 60 fps full resolution readout
- 5.3 µm pixel size



Readiness:	TRL 6, no flight heritage		
Power:	<1W		
FoV:	40° (nadir) 12° (limb)		

Instrument concept

ROTCAM: 3x CMOS Camera 1024x1024 px 60 Hz

Length of one TLE / TGF : 10ms - 100ms

1024px

1024px

1024px

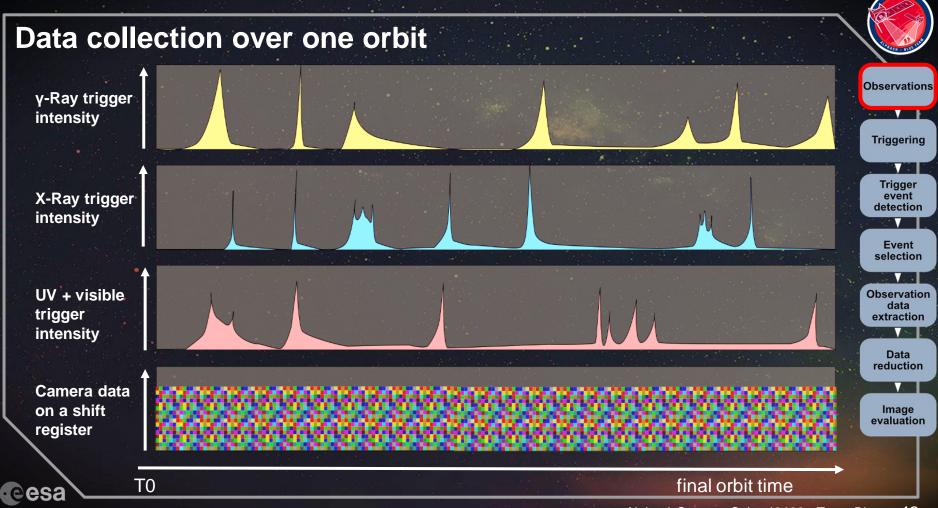
15 events / day
150 false events / day
3 Mbyte per frame
1 Mbyte/s for the triggers
30 frames per event
2*3 cameras, 2*7 triggers

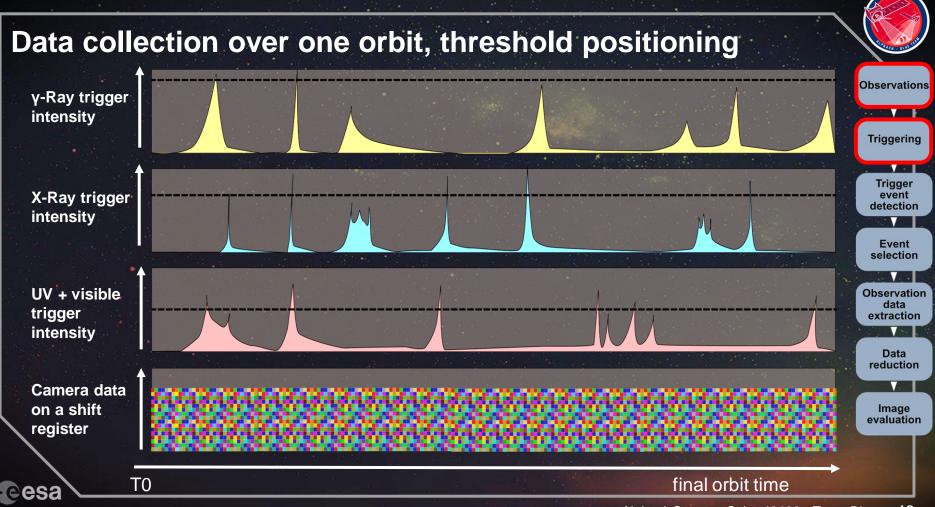
Estimated data collection per day :

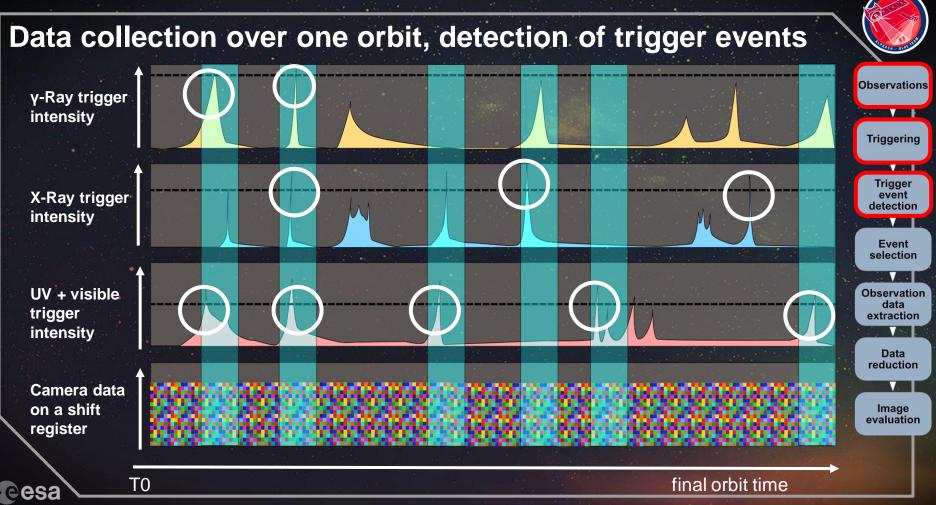
> 90 Gbytes / day for the camera data> 5 Gbytes / day for the triggers data

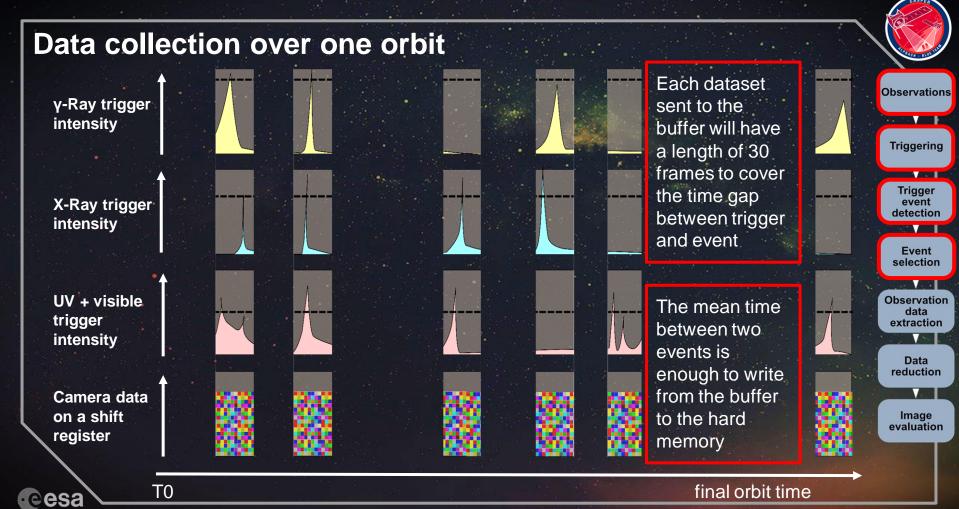
High data load requires efficient on-board data processing

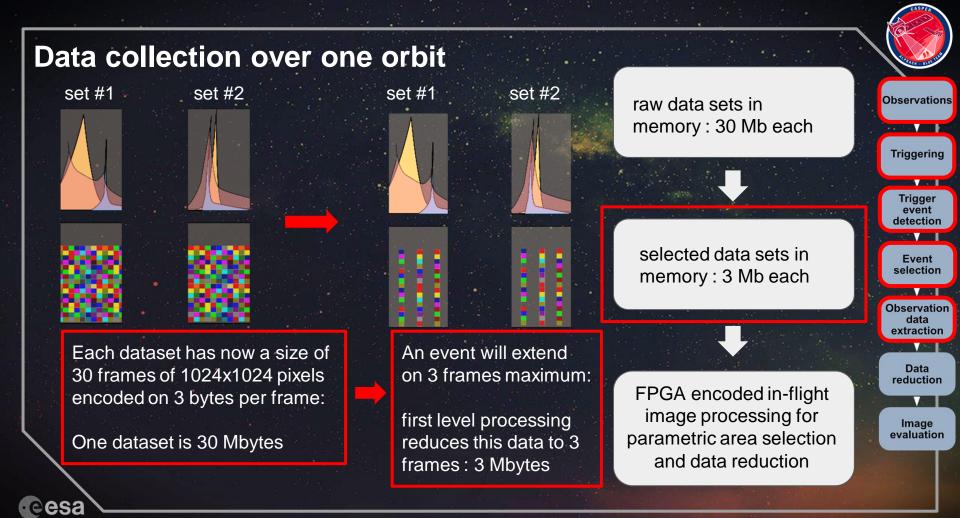
FLY-IP : FPGA encoded in-flight image processing for parametric area selection and data reduction











Data collection over one orbit

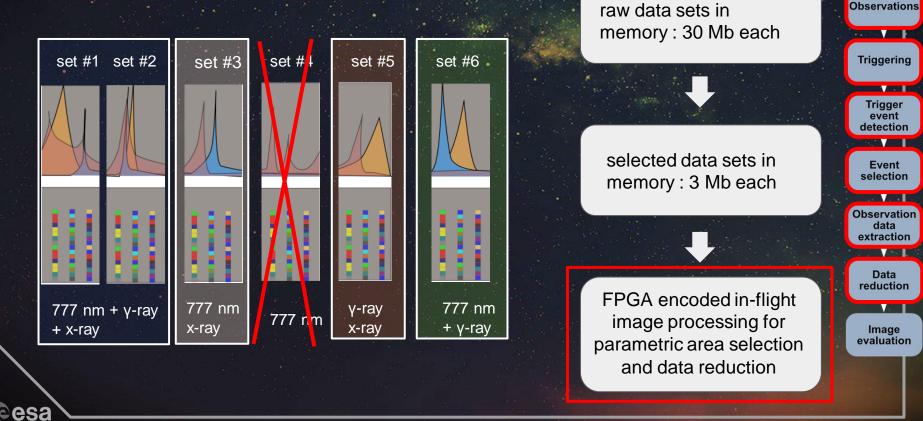
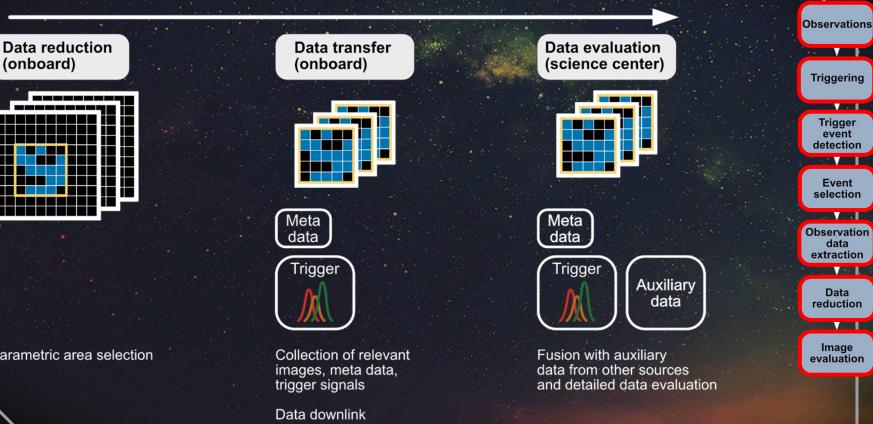
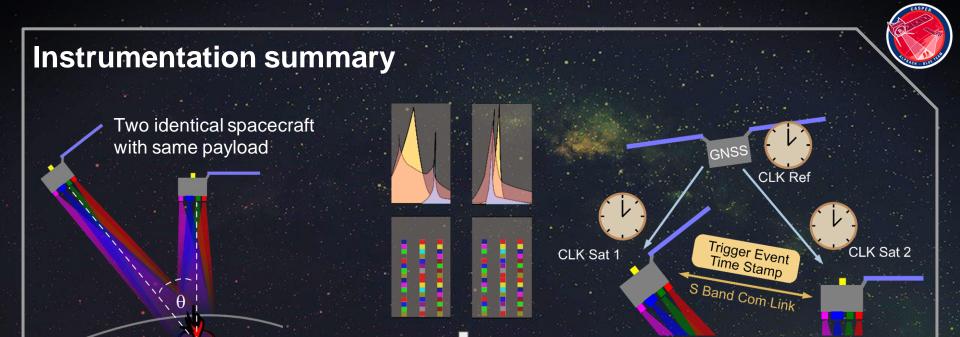


Image processing

Parametric area selection

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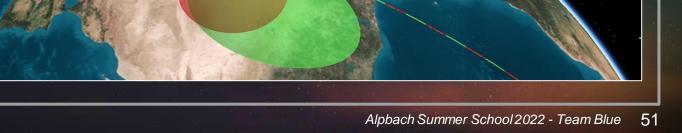
5 instruments : High frequency triggers : **IPXI**, **IPG, UPVIS** High spatial resolution instrument : **ROTCAM** Down electrons sensor : **DELEC**

Standard data set : ROTCAM frames IPXI, IPGI, IPVIS data Synchronized clock time and time stamps in the meta data



Outline of the presentation Science **Mission** Payload Design Design Case Loui Byrne





5 Instruments each How did we come up with this ... Sun-Sync Polar LEO 5 year lifetime ากละเป็น eesa

Mission overview

F-Class mission

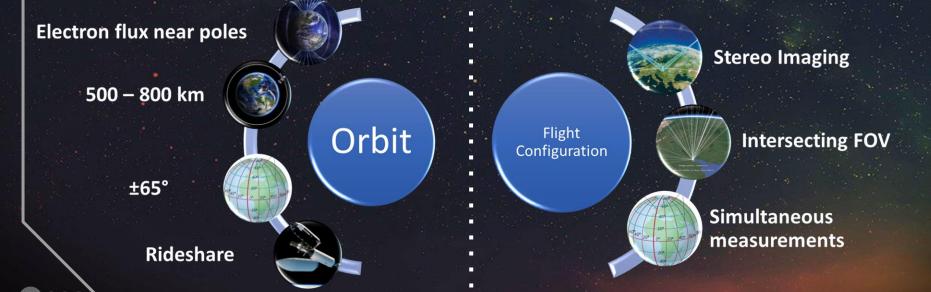
Mission requirements

Orbit

- SR-1: Global Mapping
- **SR-5:** Detecting electron flux

Flight configuration

- SR-2: Spatially resolve TLEs
- SR-4 / SR-7: 'Measure low intensity events'



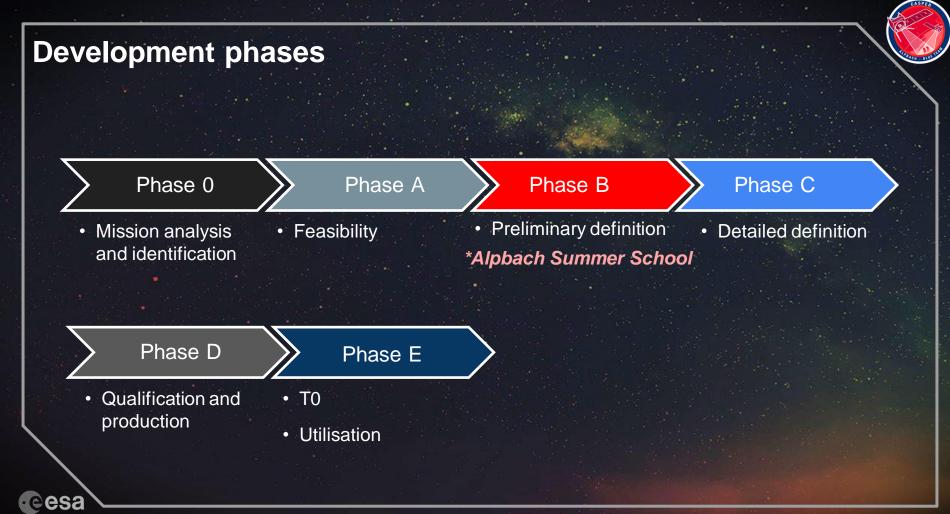
Mission profile

- Sun synchronous LEO
 - \circ Inclination = 98°
 - RAAN rate = 9.5° / day
- Altitude = 670 km
- Ascending node time = 10:30
- 14 orbits / day
- Period = 96 mins

Delta V Requirements

 ΔV Phase Maneuver = 75.4 m/s ΔV Deorbit = 70 m/s ΔV Margin = 10 m/s Total ΔV = 155 m/s





Mission phases

LEOPS

- *T* < 20 days
- Vega rideshare launch
- No time demand for launch
- Orbit injection maneuvers

- T < 0.5 year
- Phase injection maneuvers
- Instrument health
- Instrument calibration

Commissioning

- T < 5 years
- Orbit maintenance maneuvers

Scientific

Operations

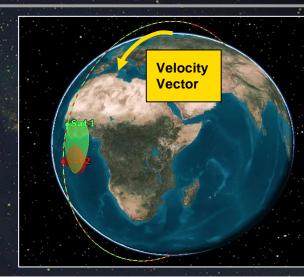
 Main objective operations - gather and transmit data T ≥ 5 years

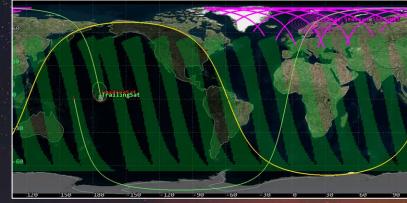
End of Life

- End of nominal mission*
- End of main objective operations
- De-orbit into atmosphere
 *Option for extended mission

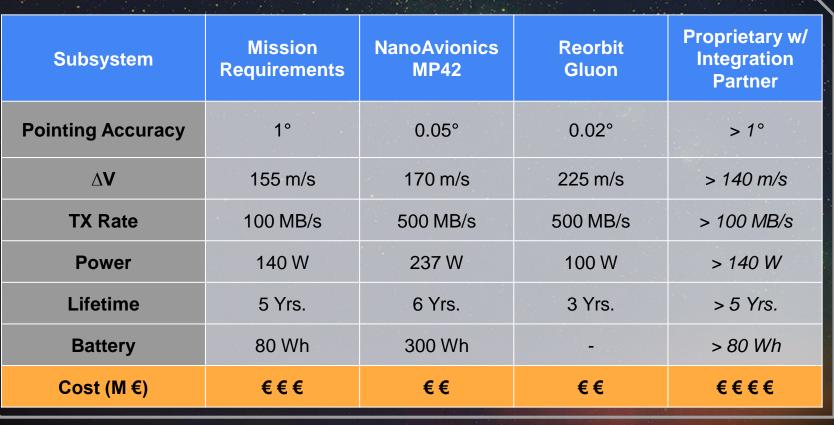
Instrument pointing & coverage

- TLE latitudes of interest = ± 65°
 - 70 min observation per orbit
- FOV cone half angle = 40° (nadir) 12° (limb)
- Phase angle = 5.25°
- Pointing accuracy requirement = 1°
- Coverage
 - 1 day: 50% of surface
 - 2 day: 80% of surface
 - 7 days: 96.5% of surface





Choosing a BUS



THE HETH

Spacecraft design

- Bus choice: NanoAvionics MP42
 - TLR 9
 - Integration partner
 - Specs:

0

0

- Volume: 500 x 500 x 700 mm
- X-band TX: 500 Mb/s
- Solar arrays: 238 W
- Bus mass: 45kg
- Monoprop thruster: 1N
 - Magnetorquer + 4 reaction whls.
 - ΔV: 170 m/s



no X-ray shield

with X-ray shield

PV Array (238W)

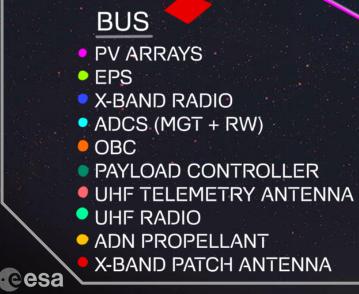


NanoAvionics MP42 TLR 9 ESA ECSS rated



UHF ANTENNA

Cesa



CASPER subsystems

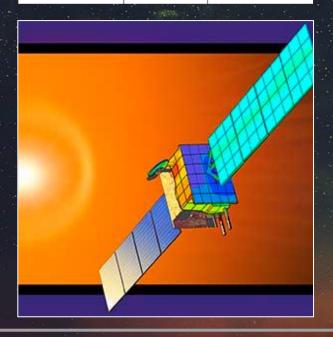
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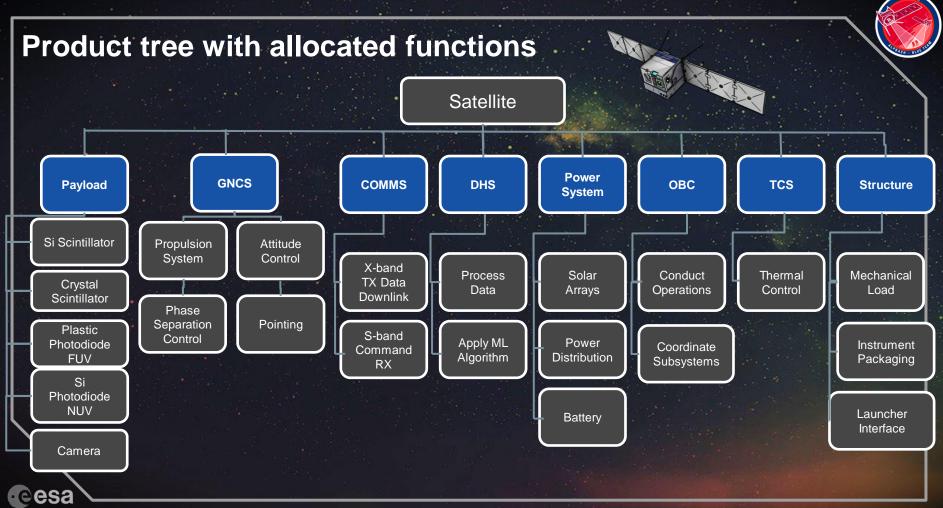
Thermal control

- Hot case: Burst mode
 - Power dissipation 30 W
- Cold case: Standby mode
 - Power dissipation 8.5W
- Satellite bus configurable w/ 50W radiator
- Heaters needed for camera
 - Operating temp 25°C

Heat source	Hot Case	Cold Case
Electronics (W)	30	8.5
IR earth (W/m ²)	258	216
Albedo (W/m ²)	466.62	0
Sun (W/m ²)	1368	0
		-







Operational modes

Mode 1: Standby mode South pole pass *South Atlantic Anomaly

- Function 1.1 Data processing
 - \circ Scientific Instruments: $\ensuremath{\text{OFF}}$
 - \circ Image compression

Mode 2: Reduced operations

Day pass

- Function 2.1 Scientific observation
 - \circ 2x Scintillators (electron flux): $\ensuremath{\text{ON}}$
 - 2x Photodiodes: ON
 - \circ Camera OFF

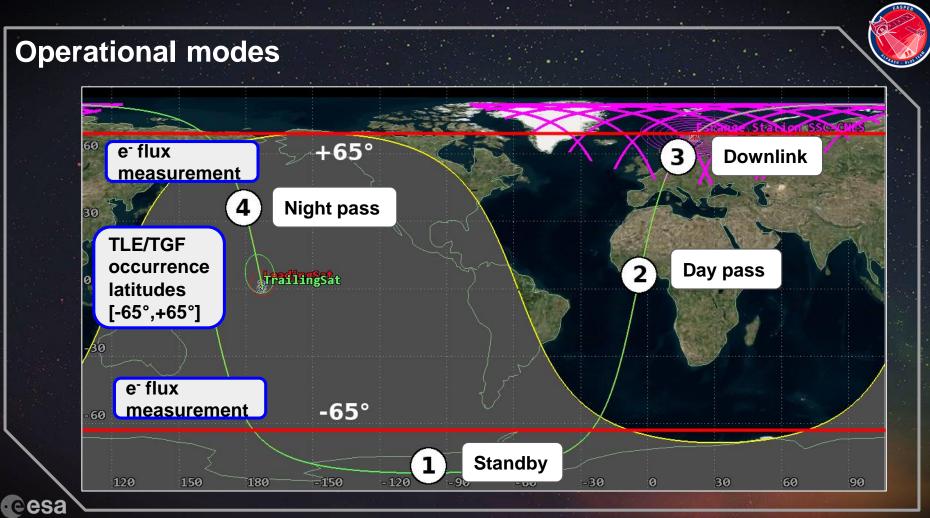
Mode 4: Full operations *Night pass*

- Function 4.1 Scientific observation
 - o 2x Scintillators (electron flux):ON
 - o 2x Photodiodes: ON
 - Camera: **ON**

Mode 3: Data link mode

Esrange pass

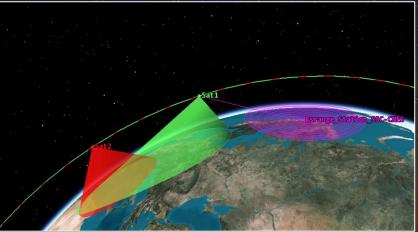
- Function 3.1 Rx & TX data transmission
 - \circ Scientific instruments: $\ensuremath{\text{OFF}}$
 - X-band: ON (TX downlink)



Ground station

- Esrange Station Kiruna, Sweden
 - High latitude maximises access time
- 12 ground passes / 24 hrs
- X-band downlink: 500 Mb/s
 - Data generated: 90 GB per day
 - TX time required: 1500 seconds
 - Access time: 8000 seconds / 24 hrs
 - 19% of access time
 - 300 TB on ground storage





Power budget

Subsystem	Margin	Mode 1: Standby (W)	Mode 2: Day Pass (W)	Mode 3: Downlink (W)	Mode 4: Night Pass (W)	Mode 4.1: Burst (W)	
Payload	10%	-	28	-	5	28	
Thermal Control	5%	10	10	10	10	10	
C&DH	5%	5	5	5	5	5	
Communication	5%	2	2	8	2	2	
ADCS	5%	-	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	14
Propulsion	5%	-	-	-	8		
Other	5%	-	-	-	-	25	1
Subtotal		17	45	54	61	101	
Margin		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	
Total		20	54	64	73	121	

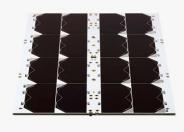




Power sizing

- Max power draw: 121 W
- PV Array: 238W
 - TLR 9
- Battery: 300 Wh
 - \circ Day side charging rate: 184 W
 - Charging time per orbit: 48 mins
 - Charge per orbit: 147 Wh
- Beginning of life (BOL) efficiency: 30%
- End of Life (EOL) efficiency: 16%





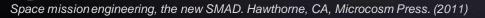
Mass budget

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- 3 sensor camera TRL 6
- Scintillators TRL 8

Payload Mass					
Instrument	Mass (Kg)	% Margin	Mass + Margin (Kg)		
Si-photodiode far UV	5	5%	5.3		
SI-photodiode near UV	5	5%	5.3		
Crystal scintillator	5	5%	5.3		
Plastic scintillator	5	5%	5.3		
Camera	12	10%	13.8		
Total Payload Mass	33	-	35		
	2014 20 20				

Spacecraft Mass					
Subsystem	% of Dry mass	Mass (Kg)	% Margin	Mass+ margin (Kg)	
Payload	31%	35	0%	35	
Structure	27%	30	5%	32	
Thermal Control	2%	2	5%	2	
Power (inc. S/A)	21%	24	5%	25	
Communications	2%	2	5%	2	
On Board Computer	5%	6	5%	6	
Attitude Control	6%	7	5%	7	
Propulsion	3%	3	5%	4	
Other	3%	3	5%	4	
Dry Mass	100%	112	-	116	
System Margin	20%	23	-	139	
Propellant	2%	6	20%	7	
Total Wet Mass	-	141	-	146	



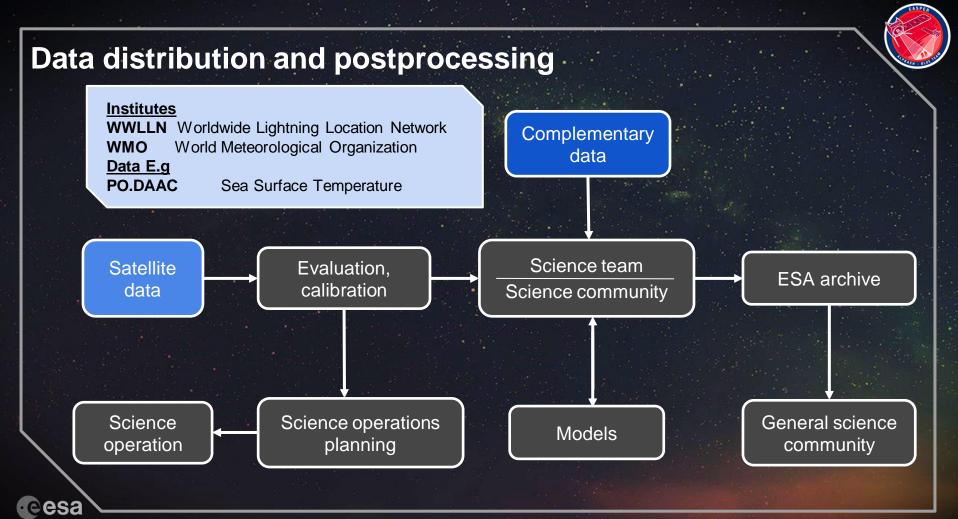
Cost budget

- Science Ops: €12M
 - Team of scientists processing data on ground
- Rideshare = $\frac{1}{4}$ cost per s/c
- Comercial BUS = ½ proprietary bus costs

Contribution per ESA member state citizen: €0.31

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	1x Spacecraft	2x Spacecraft
Spacecraft elements	Million€	Million€
Structure	1.5	3
Thermal Control	0.9	1.8
ADCS	1.2	2.4
Electrical power supply	2	4
Propulsion (reaction control)	0.8	1.6
Telemetry Tracking and Command	1	2
Command and data handling	1.2	2.4
Payload	2	4
Installation assembly and test	2	4
Engineering, software	10	12
Mission Segment SubTotal	23	38
Program management	10	10
Mission operation	10	10
Science operation	12	12
Data Storage	0.6	0.6
Industrial cost	15	30
Shared Launch	10	20
Initial cost	80	120
Margin	20%	20%
Total cost	96	143



Risk assessment

- Subsystems
 - TRL 9
 - Off the shelf
- Instruments
 - Camera: TRL 6
 - Instruments: TRL 8
 - Passed pre-flight testing
 - No flight heritage
 - Development time risk

Common LEO orbit risks inc.

- Launch failure
- System or component damage (space debris)

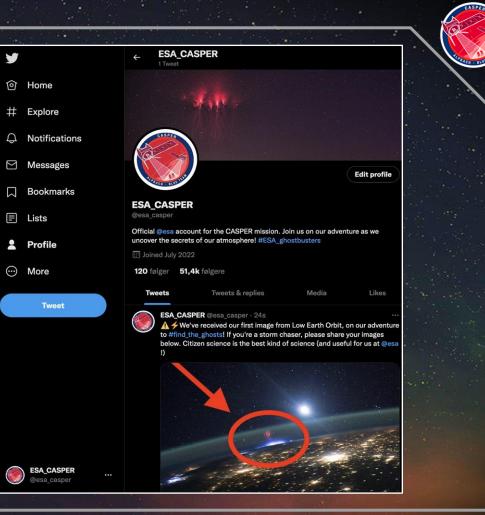
70

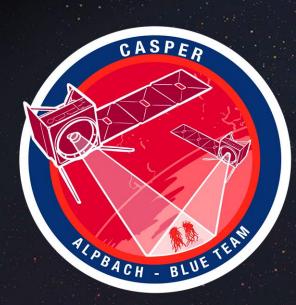
Descoping options

- Best Case: Reduce from 3 to 1 camera sensor(s)
 - Lose spectral comparison data
- Worst Case: Reduce from 2 to 1 satellite(s)
 - Loss of stereo imaging
 - No backup instruments

Outreach - social media

- Social media
 - Emphasis on citizen science.
- TLEs interesting to public.
- Coordination w/ ground based observations
 - e.g. Storm Chasers community.
- Success with earlier social media campaigns (ex: Rosetta mission)





Contributions

We recognised the need to understand special Plasma processes called <u>TLEs</u> and <u>TGFs</u>.

Created CASPER to:

- Spatially and temporally resolve them
- Measure the energy spectrum of these events
- Detect their triggering process
- Build an understanding of them

Any questions?

ALPBACH