Artificial Intelligence and Earth Observation: from Innovation to Services

9 March 2026

8.00 *Registration & Check-in*

9.30 **Session 1: Welcome and Introduction**

This welcome session will provide a high-level policy and programmatic introduction to the workshop, setting the scene for ensuing specific sessions.

MODERATOR:
— **Michel Rixen**, Programme Officer Earth Observation, DG DEFIS, European Commission

SPEAKERS:
— **Christoph Kautz**, Director Space Policy, Satellite Navigation and Earth Observation, DG DEFIS, European Commission
— **Thomas Skordas**, Deputy Director-General, DG CNECT, European Commission

10.00 *Coffee Break & Demonstrations*

10.30 **Session 2: The AI/ML Revolution**

The session will look at how AI is transforming Copernicus and Destination Earth (DestinE) data into powerful, real-time intelligence through advanced AI/ML models, which improve decision-making for a more climate resilient and sustainable Europe. It will serve as an introduction to opportunities and challenges, beyond the hype.

MODERATOR:
— **Mauro Facchini**, Head of Unit Earth Observation, DG DEFIS, European Commission

SPEAKERS:
— **Gaspard Demur**, Deputy Head of Unit EU AI Innovation and Policy Coordination - EU AI Office, DG CNECT, European Commission
— **Matthew Chantry**, Strategic Lead for Machine Learning, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
— **Luca Girardo**, Destination Earth and Copernicus Advanced Infrastructure Services Manager, European Space Agency
— **Quentin Gaudel**, ML systems architect, Mercator Ocean International
— **Isabelle Benezeth**, Ministry of Research and Innovation, France
— **Andrea Taramelli**, Associate Professor, IUSS University

12.00 *Lunch & Demonstrations*

14.00 **Session 3: Big Data and HPC**

The session will highlight the role of high quality AI-ready datasets, efficient workflows and tools and investment in high-performance computing power as building blocks for scalable, more complex and accurate development, training and deployment of AI models.

MODERATOR:
— **Babis Tsitlakidis**, Head of Sector Destination Earth, High Performance Computing and Applications, DG CNECT, European Commission

SPEAKERS:
— **Tiago Quintino**, Head of Software Development section, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
— **Jędrzej Bojanowski**, Director of EO Data Science and Products, CloudFerro
— **Juan Pelegrin**, Head of Sector AI Factories, High Performance Computing and Applications, DG CNECT, European Commission
— **Danaele Puechmaille**, Technical Coordinator for Destination Earth, Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, EUMETSAT
— **Luca Girardo**, Destination Earth & Copernicus Advanced Infrastructure Services Manager, European Space Agency

15.30 *Coffee Break & Demonstrations*

16.00 **Session 4: User needs and trustworthy AI**

The session will address the traceability of user needs, and if, when and how they determine the use of AL/ML in products and services from Copernicus and Destination Earth.

MODERATOR:
— **Mark Dowell**, KCEO Team Lead, KCEO-JRC, European Commission

SPEAKERS:
— **Miguel Vallejo Orti**, Project Officer, KCEO-JRC, European Commission
— **Ruben Piroska**, Coordinator of CEMS, German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance
— **Antoine Guion**, Research Engineer in Air Quality Modeling and Forecasting, French National Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks
— **Matteo Mattiuzzi**, Expert Copernicus Land Monitoring Service, European Environment Agency
— **Stefanie Lumnitz**, Policy Officer Climate & Planetary Boundaries, DG RTD, European Commission
— **Hannah Kofler**, Product Manager Image Processing and Data Science, Constellr
— **Alistair Francis**, Co-founder and Partner, Asterisk labs

17.25 **Wrap-up**

MODERATORS:
— **Daniel Draghicescu**, Policy Officer Destination Earth, High Performance Computing and Applications, DG CNECT, European Commission

17.30 *End*

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8.00 *Registration & Check-in*

9.30 **Session 5: Digital Twins and AI**

The session will examine the distinctive roles and impacts of Digital Twins and AI-powered demonstrators in advancing technological innovation and building cutting-edge solutions.

MODERATOR:
— **Bertrand Le Saux**, Policy Officer Destination Earth and AI Applications, High Performance Computing and Applications, DG CNECT, European Commission

SPEAKERS:
— **Sara Hahner**, Scientist for Machine Learning, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
— **Alain Arnaud**, Director Digital Ocean Department, Mercator International
— **Stef Lhermitte**, Professor, KU Leuven

10.30 *Coffee Break & Demonstrations*

11.00 **Session 6: AI in Action**

The session will discuss the challenges faced by companies that commercialise AI solutions based on Earth Observation and the opportunities created by projects and entrepreneurship activities leading to wider EO and Copernicus adoption.

MODERATOR:
— **Fiammetta Diani**, Head of Market Downstream and Innovation, EU Agency for the Space Programme

SPEAKERS:
— **Betty Charalampopoulou**, EARSC Board of Directors, President and CEO GEOSYSTEMS HELLAS S.A.
— **Conrad Bielski**, CTO, Riscognition
— **Fran Martin**, Geospatial Product and Project Lead, EarthPulse
— **Danijela Ristic-Durrant**, Senior R&D Project Manager, OHB-DS
— **Machi Simeonidou**, Managing Director, AgroApps

12.30 *Lunch & Demonstrations*

14.00 **Session 7: Research and innovation**

The session will focus on latest research trends in Artificial Intelligence for Earth Observation and transition pathways to operations for EO services.

MODERATOR:
— **Massimo Ciscato**, Head of Sector Space Services, Space Research, HaDEA, European Commission

SPEAKERS:
— **Marko Curavic**, Head of Unit Space Research, HaDEA, European Commission
— **Begüm Demir**, Full Professor, TU Berlin
— **Yann Guichoux**, Founder and President, eOdyn
— **Francois De Vielleville**, CTO, AGENIUM SPACE
— **Tom Hengl**, Director and Co-founder, OpenGeoHub Foundation
— **Ioannis Papoutsis**, Assistant Professor, National Technical University of Athens
— **Ana Oliveira**, Chief Technology Officer, +Atlantic

15.30 *Coffee & Demonstrations*

16.15 **Session 8: Digital Transformation of Earth Observation Services**

The aim of this session will be to discuss the future of Earth observation, digital services and the role they can play, together with research and innovation, towards a new paradigm for competitiveness and resilience in the next Multiannual Financial Frameworks.

MODERATOR:
— **Vincent-Henri Peuch**, Director for Engagement with the EU, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts

SPEAKERS:
— **Jenni Kontkanen**, Development Manager, Digital Twin Technologies, CSC - IT Center for Science
— **Babis Tsitlakidis**, Head of Sector Destination Earth, High Performance Computing and Applications, DG CNECT, European Commission
— **Elisabeth Hamdouch**, Deputy Head of Unit Earth Observation, DG DEFIS, European Commission
— **Auréien de Truchis**, Vice-President Data Sciences, Kayrros
— **Peter Salamon**, Head Copernicus Emergency Management Service, DG JRC, European Commission
— **Franz Immler**, Head of Sector Environmental Observations, DG RTD, European Commission

17.25 **Wrap-up**

MODERATOR:
— **Michel Rixen**, Programme Officer Earth Observation, DG DEFIS, European Commission

17.30 *End*

WORKSHOPS

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During All Breaks (Coffee and Lunch)

Demo 1 - Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS)

— **Location: Hall or Demo Room**
— **Peter Salamon**, JRC

Demo 2 - CDSE AI capabilities

— **Location: Hall or Demo Room**
— **Dennis Clarijs**, VITO, Belgium

Demo 3 - AI & VHR imaging

— **Location: Hall or Demo Room**
— **Pierre-olivier Vanberg**, AeroSpaceLab

Demo 4 - Operational AI services on DestinE Platform

— **Location: Hall or Demo Room**
— **Luca Girardo and Sébastien Tétaud**, ESA & **Sergey Sukhanov**, FlyPix

Demo 5 - The weather Forecast-in-a-Box

— **Location: Hall or Demo room**
— **Tiago Quintino**, ECMWF

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During All Breaks (Coffee and Lunch)

Demo 1 - Downscaling CAMS Reanalysis for High-resolution Air Quality Mapping

— **Location: Hall or Demo Room**
— **Antoine Guion**, INERIS, France

Demo 2 - GLONET & OceanBench: AI-based Ocean Forecasting System and Validation Framework

— **Location: Hall or Demo Room**
— **Quentin Gaudel and Pierre-Yves Le Traon**, Mercator Ocean International

Demo 3 - AI4FloodDamage

— **Location: Hall or Demo Room**
— **Ruben Piroska**, BBK, Germany

Demo 4 - Prototype Digital Twin for Ice Sheets

— **Location: Hall or Demo Room**
— **Stef Lhermitte**, KU Leuven, Belgium

Demo 5 - The Observia Copernicus Chatbot

— **Location: Hall or Demo room**
— **Matteo Mattiuzzi**, EEA