# Changing the Perspective: Atmospheric Research on the ISS

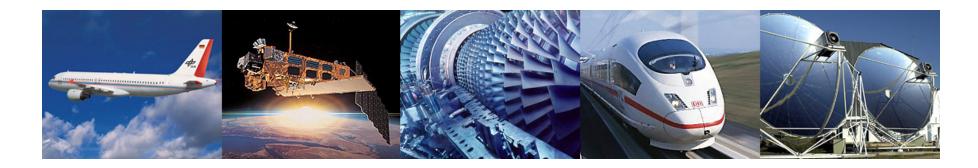
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### DLR German Aerospace Center



- Research Institution
- Space Agency
- Project Management Agency



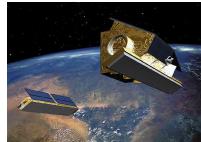
# **DLR Space Research and Technology**

- Space exploration
- Zero gravity research
- Earth observation
- Communication and navigation
- Space transport
- Technology of space systems











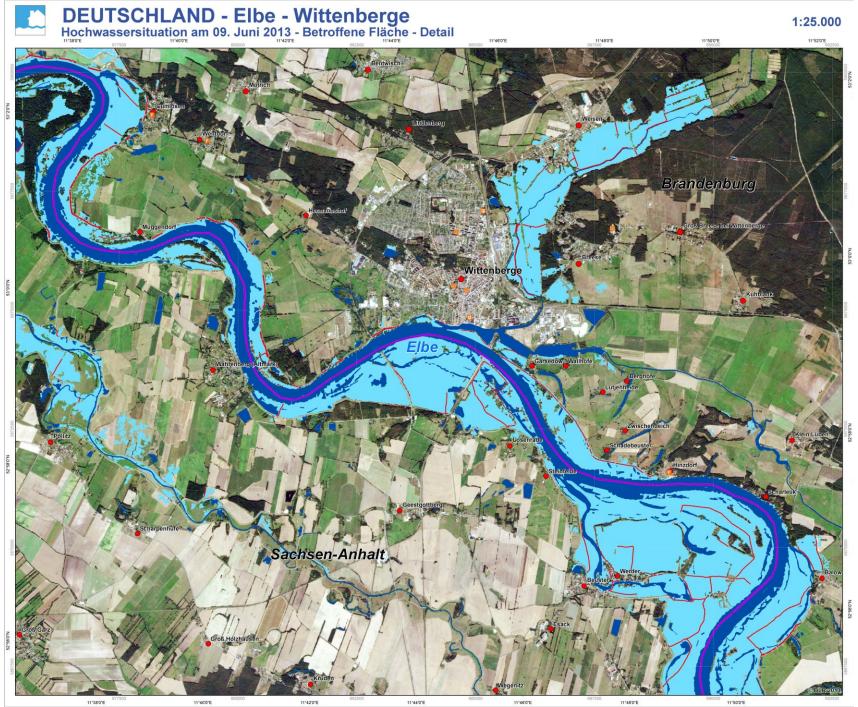








www, DLR.de • Chart 4





# That is what we already have today. That is what we can measure and what everybody can see.

What is not apparent but equally dangerous are the changes in the Earth's atmosphere.

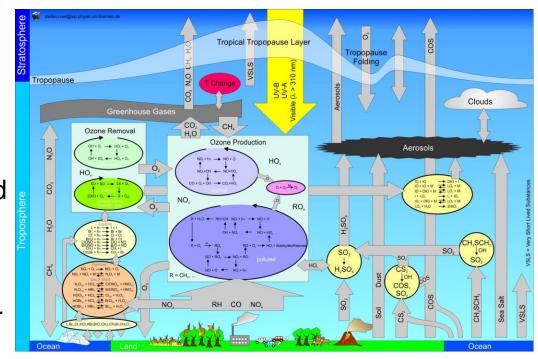
We still do not have sufficient tools to understand the consequences of global atmospheric processes. And changes in global atmosphere can probably cause bigger catastrophies.

So, we have to be able to develop sufficient capabilities to monitor these atmospheric changes.



# The atmosphere: What's wrong?

- Conditions in the biosphere depend on the interactions of the Sun, the atmosphere, and earth's surface and their non linear feedback.
- Dramatic changes in population and anthropogenic emissions since 1800! Example: of 5 Billion people since SCIAMACHY has been proposed in 1988 - to a total of over 7 Billion now



 The atmosphere is changing dramatically as a result of mankind.



# **Emissions Major Source of Uncertainty**

**Fossil Fuel** 



**Biomass Burning** 



**Volcanoes** 



**Forests** 



Soils



**Oceans** 



# Lightning





# Why is Earth Observation so important?

- It is impossible to understand or manage what is not measured!
- Atmospheric composition provides early warning of changes to come!
- Environmental / Climate Change requires Global Observations!
- Evidence base for testing our understanding and for policymaking!
- Conclusion: long-time data series for Earth Observation are needed

#### What is the problem?

- Satellites are too expensive.
- •Have a relatively short live time.
- •There is a lack of flight opportunities.
- •Current planned missions provide limited opportunities for improving atmospheric observation.





# The end of a pioneering age – How do we now move forward?

#### Some of the issues and problems

- •In a pioneering age over the past 30 years atmospheric and space scientist have demonstrated that atmospheric and relevant surface phenomena are well measured from space and in particular trends can be well measured. Hugely Successful!
- •However much better spatial resolution and temporal sampling is required to improve our knowledge of surface fluxes of atmospheric constituents
- •In Europe ESA, EUMETSAT and EU Copernicus (GMES) are slowly progressing to become operational systems, providing global data from low Earth orbit and GEO geostationary orbit.
- •The next planning cycle for follow on to EUMESAT ESA Metop Second Generation and Meteosat Third Generation will begin in the 2020s for launch in the 2035 to 2040 time frame



# The end of a pioneering age of earth observation – How do we now move forward – a paradigm shift!

#### Issues:

- •NASA decadal survey proposal being implemented very slowly, if at all.
- •The ESA Explorer and related path finder missions provide limited opportunities for improving atmospheric observation
- •Lack of flight opportunities for the foreseeable future for new missions addressing the needs for high spatial resolution.
- •Loss of competency and human capacity. (No projects for young scientists see problems of nuclear industry)

Paradigm Shift – Solution for Short to Medium Term:
Use of ISS as an atmospheric Observatory for science and development



# Orbital Track and Coverage of ISS + 70° Scan

Nadir viewing from ISS used for emissions and tropospheric sounding

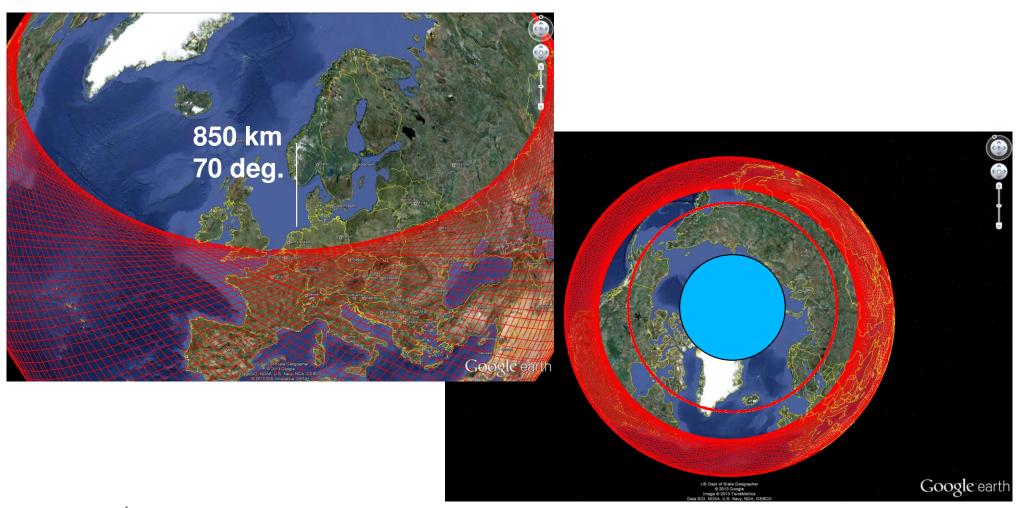
- •Covers 95% of world's population and their emissions including scan
- Not appropriate for Arctic and Antarctic and high boreal region
- Low altitude of orbit facilitates high spatial resolution in nadir viewing
- •Asynchronous orbit yields multiple time measurements in the 45°- 60° latitudes and a drifting local time per day.
- Limb Viewing and Solar Occultation used for vertical profiling of atmospheric constituents
- Extended viewing to poles successfully used by UARS
- •Near Global Coverage, some loss at poles, in occultation see NASA Sage II and JAXA SMILES

Summary

- •complements the planned sun synchronous LEO and geostationary GEO fleet lower spatial resolution instrumentation
- •facilitates high spatial resolution instrumentation in nadir



Nadir viewing from ISS used for emissions and tropospheric sounding covers 95% of the world's population and their emissions including scan





# The International Space Station – a technological platform already in existence!

#### **Paradigm Shift**

- •Use of ISS as an atmospheric observatory for science and development
- •Near global coverage (95% of the world population)
- Low orbit gives opportunity for higher spatial resolution
- •Excellent potential concerning power & data transmission
- Possibility of refurbishment on sub-decadal timescale
- •Easy access with human assistance
- •Relatively cheap in comparison to satellites





#### **Initial Conclusions**

- Coverage is good if you don't need the poles
  - Northern latitudes are short-changed
- Low orbit gives opportunity for higher spatial resolution
- Potential for up to 34 instruments
- Power & data rate not a real problem
- Mass is a problem insofar as it has to get to ISS
- Possibility of refurbishment on sub-decadal timescale



# ISS Advantageous could for:

- High spatial resolution sounder possibly steerable
  - Exploit the resolution possibilities
- High data rate measurements
  - FTS or hyperspectral imager etc.
- Active sounding Lidar, DIAL
  - Possibility of servicing (emitter replacement)
- Not necessarily complex KISS
  - Occultation FTS/grating like SciSat
- Aerosols and composition combined is important
- Don't forget GPS sounding

