

PROBA-V, celebrating one year in space!

06/05/2013: a day we will never forget! At 23:06 local time in Kourou, French Guinea the small satellite PROBA-V was successfully launched by ESA's VEGA launcher and put into orbit exactly as planned. Now, one year later we look back at the successful launch and the past 12 months in which PROBA-V started its operational phase.

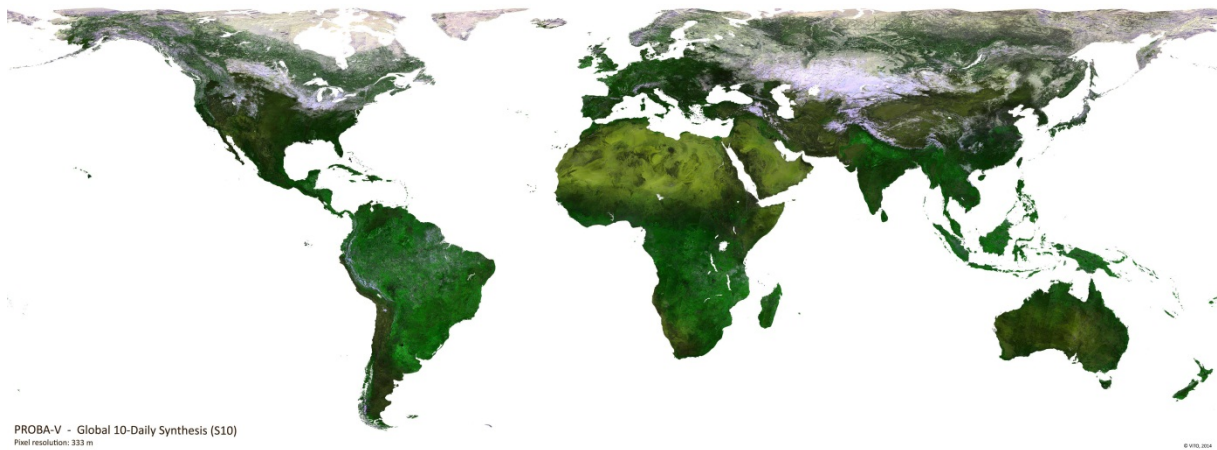
Driven by the success of SPOT-VEGETATION, the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) decided to design a new satellite that could continue vegetation monitoring on a daily and global scale.

SPOT-VEGETATION has been monitoring the global vegetation status for the last 16 years, but on May 31, 2014 the satellite will stop delivering images. PROBA-V, now already 12 months in space and fully operational since December 2013, is a microsatellite that is not bigger than a washing machine but that delivers global syntheses with an increased spatial resolution of 300 m every day. These images are of crucial importance for scientific research in various application fields such as climate change, food security, vegetation dynamics, biodiversity, ...



Click [here](#) to watch the official countdown and successful launch of PROBA-V again!

PROBA-V's images are sent to the receiving station in Kiruna, Sweden. From there, the images are forwarded to the image processing centre of VITO (Flemish Institute for Technological Research) which processes and archives the PROBA-V images prior to delivering them to the end users via a web based portal, www.vito-eodata.be. The ground control station, in charge of the tasking of the satellite, is located at ESA's ground station of Redu in Belgium.



The satellite platform was built by QinetiQ Space, Prime Contractor of the project. OIP Sensor Systems developed the sensor system, while VITO acted as Principal Investigator and developed the user segment, i.e. the processing chain. As the first Belgian satellite for global environmental monitoring, PROBA-V represents a milestone in the Belgian Space Industry.

More information about PROBA-V can be found on <http://proba-v.vgt.vito.be/> and http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Technology/Proba_Missions.

To download PROBA-V images, please visit www.vito-eodata.be or <https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/pi-community/apply-for-data>

