

STATUS OF EUMETSAT ASCAT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

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EUMETSAT's primary objective is to provide users with satellite data products for operational applications. In that context, the EUMETSAT Polar System (EPS) provides a range of ASCAT products, with emphasis on near real time services with a high degree of reliability and continuity. Global backscatter coefficient values are provided in near real time, at swath grids with 25 km and 12.5 km spacing. The EUMETSAT Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facility (OSI SAF) further extends the service to L2 ocean winds and L3 sea ice coverage. EUMETSAT also provides in near real time global ASCAT L2 soil moisture products. Additionally, the EUMETSAT Advanced Retransmission System (EARS) provides fast access to ASCAT L2 winds, aiming at products dissemination after only 30 minutes from sensing. The EARS products are intended to satisfy the need for surface winds of regional weather forecasting and nowcasting applications.

A summary of the status of all the ASCAT services above is given. Specific issues further discussed are the status of the Level 1b and L2 reprocessing project and improvements in the Level 1b processing with the implementation of a dynamic normalisation of power to sigma0 values. Progress in testing box-averaging in the generation of Level 1b products is also reported on.

Finally, in preparation for ASCAT follow-on missions, a brief summary of post-EPS discussions in the area of scatterometers is also provided.