



RADARSAT-2

A NEW ERA IN EARTH OBSERVATION

BACKGROUND

Developed and operated by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), RADARSAT-1 became Canada's first commercial Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) mission and positioned Canadians as world leaders in the business of Earth Observation (EO). It was designed to survey environmental changes and improve the management of oceanic and terrestrial resources. Today, RADARSAT-1 is still one of the most advanced imaging radar satellites in orbit.

A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

Building on the success of RADARSAT-1, the mandate given to the CSA through the Long Term Space Plan is to develop a follow-on program to RADARSAT-1 in cooperation with the private sector. The RADARSAT-2 program flows from this mandate and ensures the continuity of the original RADARSAT program and supports the evolution of the EO business in Canada.

RADARSAT-2 is a unique collaboration between the CSA and MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. (MDA), a world leader in space and information technologies. Under a financial and management arrangement with the CSA, after design, construction and launch, MDA will own and operate the satellite, and the CSA's investment will be recovered through the supply of imagery to Canadian government agencies during the lifetime of the mission.

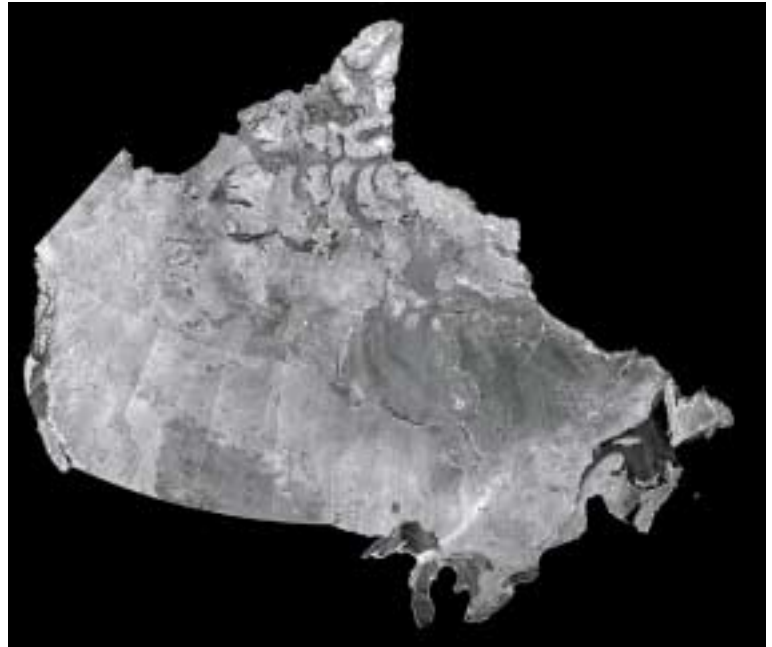


Image mosaic of Canada acquired by RADARSAT-1. (© CSA 1999. Received by CCRS. Processed and distributed by RSI. Mosaic by RSI.)



Artist's conception of RADARSAT-2. (© MDA 2000)

ENHANCED CAPABILITIES

The RADARSAT-2 satellite incorporates state-of-the-art technology and will provide the most advanced commercially available radar imagery in the world.

The design of RADARSAT-2 has been driven by the needs of the global Earth Observation market, providing users with high-quality data products. RADARSAT-2 will be able to image at spatial resolutions ranging from 3 to 100 meters with nominal swath widths ranging from 10 to 500 kilometers. In addition, RADARSAT-2 is the first commercial radar satellite to offer multi-polarization, a capability that aids in identifying a wide variety of surface features and targets. The satellite, scheduled for launch in 2003, is designed to be operational for a period of seven years.

RADARSAT-2 Programme

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