

**Report on Outcomes**  
**Satellite Data Stakeholder Consultation**  
**23 October 2020 - 14h00 to 16h00 CET**

In preparation for the WMO Data Conference, this online consultation sought stakeholder input on the current and future need for essential satellite data and the implications for WMO Data Policy, in the context of the evolving space-based observation system, and within the WIGOS 2040 Vision and beyond. Presentations and discussion focused on three themes:

1. Evolution of the space-based observing system
2. Free and open access to essential space-based observations
3. The role of private-sector satellite data

The meeting was co-chaired by:

- Alain Ratier, Director-General, EUMETSAT, CGMS-Secretariat
- Mark Paese, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, NOAA

Expert speakers included:

- Karen St Germain, Director Earth Science Division, NASA, CEOS Chair
- Peng Zhang, Deputy Director-General National Satellite Meteorological Center/China Meteorological Administration
- Osamu Ochiai, JAXA, CEOS Regional representative
- Peter Platzer, Chief Executive Officer of Spire Global, Inc.

Approximately 145 stakeholders participated in the topic discussions, including stakeholders from government, academia, and the private sector.

*Summary of Outcomes:*

In general, it was noted that the WMO "Vision for WIGOS in 2040" is an overarching document. Whilst robustness of the observing system is key, evolution of the system needs to be considered. Therefore an agile model, while maintaining highest standard for reliability and availability and continued commitment to open access to data, could be considered. It is however important to define/clarify which data are subject to a "free and unrestricted"

policy for data access, not just for meteorology, but for the whole Earth system, ensuring that broad access to critical satellite data will be preserved and included in the WIGOS Manual.

Key points:

- Satellite data are a critical part of the value chain from observation to understanding to delivering societal value.
- Policy reform is an opportunity to rethink how we define critical data.
- Need to draw on the capabilities of the public and private sectors.
- Opening satellite data has been demonstrated to amplify the value of the data.
- Non-linear explosion is occurring in data volumes.
- Open access and availability could shorten the time required for new user uptake.
- A tiered approach to licensing is being explored by some as a possible solution.
- Non-commercial licences and other restrictions can be used to preserve the commercial value of data.
- Bringing users to the data can have resource/policy implications.
- Future data policies need to support an Earth systems approach.
- Open data is an enabler for research and innovation.