

Envi-Ham Project

Abstract.

Some categories of non-professional users (e.g. Education, Radio Listening, E.O. Enthusiast) have shown interest to receive near-real time Envisat data via the satellite Data Dissemination System (DDS).

The major objective of the Envi-Ham project shall be to widen the knowledge of ESA E.O. missions among non-professionals, to retrieve possible observations done by users and to coordinate in a single non-commercial project a whole groups of users, which otherwise would be applicant for individuals ESA-approved scientific (CAT-1) projects.

The Envi-Ham project principal investigator (P.I.) is within ESA, while all the users shall appear as co-investigators and will share the same obligations about use of data, as the standard P.I.'s .

Envisat distributed data are from instruments which may easily generate a viewable image, with a freeware SW. At the moment ESA is disseminating the global Envisat data from the multi-spectral instruments (MERIS RR, AATSR) and the MERIS full resolution (300m) sensed over the European Continent.

As condition to participate, every co-investigator is declaring that he has all the means to carry out autonomously the activity. In particular the cost of the commercial dish (1.2m dish for DDS Ku-band users in central European), of the LNB, of the installation and of the PC will be borne by the “Envi-Ham” users.

The only ESA undertaking for the project is the provision of a limited number of free licences of the DDS reception SW and associated decryption keys.

At the moment, the project is counting co-investigators from Italy, France and Belgium.

Procedure to become a co-investigator

Every non-professional user of Earth Observation data, interested in joining the “Envi-Ham” project should first send by fax or email, an application to the P.I. of the project, by accepting the “Envi-Ham specific Terms and Conditions” contained in the document TIA-ESRIN-0906-007 at its latest revision.

This document may be obtained either downloading it from the DDS web site, or asking it directly to the P.I. by email to tta@esa.int.

The original signed copy must be sent in parallel to the P.I. via postal mail.

The user shall be informed by email once the registration as co-principal investigator is be finalised (normally in 1-2 working days). With the notification the user will receive a comprehensive “Information Package” describing the technical requirements and the options to receive the DDS data.

In case the user decides to opt for the free “Envi-Ham” Software, he is required to send back to the P.I. email (tta@esa.int) the Appendix A of the document TIA-ESRIN-0709-007 v1.0 “Com-Rec DDS Site Requirements” with all the needed information filled in. This information will be used to assess intended station compatibility with the DDS satellite signal, and to prepare the decryption key required to decode the DDS data stream (station dependent). Similar feedbacks are required also for the other DDS receiving options.

For the “Envi-Ham” Software users, the installation package will be distributed by email attachment, once the decryption key is generated (normally in 1-2 working days). In case of problems with email attachments, different electronic delivery options are available.

With the installation package and the site key, the user can install the application on his own PC following the instruction contained in the “Envisat DDS User manual” distributed with the “Information Package”.