

New book on 50 years (1965-2015) of Earth observation activities from space performed by Europe

To be released in first half of 2018!!

Last year a publication has been released related to the history of Earth observation in Europe since the mid 60's till now. This book was realised under the auspices of the "Institut Français de l'Histoire de l'Espace" (IFHE), a non-profit association, and is entitled « Observation spatiale de la Terre - Optique et Radar- La France et l'Europe pionnières ». It provides a comprehensive overview over a period of 50 years (1965-2015) of Earth observation activities and applications performed in Europe. The book is focused on high resolution optical and SAR imagery and covers both civilian and military space systems. Several chapters deal with EU and ESA Earth Observation cooperation programmes starting from the early days with Earthnet till today with the Copernicus Sentinels satellites. It also covers cooperative programmes between the EU and some Member States (e.g. Belgium, Sweden and France for the Vegetation instrument flown on Spot satellite missions).

The book results of contributions of more than 80 space « pioneers », all being or having been key players from Space agencies (ESA, CNES, ASI, DLR, CSA...) and Space industries (Airbus Space and Defence, Thales Alenia Space, etc.), from European Commission DGs (DG Research and DG GROW) and the Joint Research Centre as well as from the scientific and application communities, in particular EARSeL and EARSC.

ESA has provided a major financial support for the translation of the book into English and it is expected to release this English version by May 2018. This is a major step forward but, in order to complete and secure the total required funding, IFHE is looking for pre-purchase orders, at a preferential unit price of 40 € instead of 50 € when released to public, to cover the remaining cost of publication and to print some 2000-2500 copies of the book. About 800 pre-purchase orders are needed in order to cover this production cost and the EARSeL community support would be very much appreciated.

For more information please contact:

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To place a pre-purchase order for the English version of the book, please return to:

Institut Français d'Histoire de l'Espace
2, place Maurice Quentin Paris 75001
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