

# Flux part of the most sophisticated Earth-observation satellite ever built.

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Europe's ultra-advanced weather satellite was launch on October 19th. Flux has been main supplier of the magnetic components.

MetOp-A, the first in a new European series of three meteorological operational satellites designed to monitor the Earth's atmosphere from polar orbit has been launched on Thursday 19th October from Baikonur, Kazakhstan. It will complement Europe's already highly successful Meteosat positioned in geostationary orbit and will form the European part of an integrated system to be deployed jointly with the USA to provide better weather information.

The MetOp satellite series is a joint programme being carried out by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Meteorological Satellite Organisation (EUMETSAT), with the latter set to operate the spacecraft once they are in orbit.

These new satellites will form the space segment of the EUMETSAT Polar System (EPS). They will circle the globe from pole to pole at an altitude of about 817 km, collecting high-resolution data to complement the hemispheric survey of the atmosphere conducted from geostationary orbit by the Meteosat system.

The MetOp spacecraft have been developed and built by an industrial team led by EADS Astrium based in Toulouse, France. Three flight models were ordered and have essentially been completed.

Main parts of the magnetic components have been built by Flux.

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MetOp has been launched on 19 October 2006 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.  
Credits: ESA.



MetOp satellite in orbit.  
Credits: ESA - AOES  
Medialab