

EE-11 candidate CAIRT Scientific motivation, goals and mission requirements

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Scientific Motivation and Goals





Evidence for profound changes
in:
Atmospheric circulation
Wave driving
Transport and mixing
Impact on

atmospheric composition
surface climate

Scientific Motivation and Goals





Evidence for profound changes in: Atmospheric circulation Wave driving Transport and mixing Impact on atmospheric composition surface climate Coupling with upper atmosphere / space weather Stratospheric aerosol budget

Radiative balance

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Mission Objectives



- **Objective A:** Quantify the middle-atmosphere circulation from the upper troposphere to the lower thermosphere by providing accurate and high-resolution observations of age-of-air, temperature and long-lived trace gases
- **Objective B:** Quantify the atmospheric gravity wave momentum flux and wave driving through temperature observations at unprecedented scales
- **Objective C:** Attribute changes in stratospheric ozone due to circulation and chemistry by providing observations of the relevant chemical species
- **Objective D:** Quantify the flux of reactive nitrogen species from the upper atmosphere into the stratosphere to improve our understanding how transient solar events and space weather affect stratospheric ozone and natural climate variability
- **Objective E:** Quantify the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere (UTLS) aerosol composition and precursor gases
- **Objective F:** Quantify UTLS variability, stratosphere-troposphere exchange and its impact on tropospheric composition and air quality

Mission Objectives: L2 products

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- Objective A: Long-lived tracers (N₂O, CH₄, SF₆, CF₄, CO) will provide information on transport, mixing and circulation changes
- Objective B: High-resolution measurements of temperature will provide momentum flux, phase speed and direction of atmospheric gravity waves
- Objective C: Ozone depleting substances (nitrogen: NO, NO₂, HNO₃, chlorine: CFCs, HCFCs, CIONO₂, CIO, bromine: BrONO₂)
- **Objective D:** Observations of **NO** and **CO**, from the stratosphere to the lower thermosphere, to derive flux of reactive nitrogen from the upper atmosphere and coupling with solar activity
- Objective E: Budget of stratospheric sulfur (OCS, SO₂, and H₂SO₄ aerosols), UTLS aerosols (NH₄NO₃) and aerosol precursors (NH₃) and reactive trace gases (e.g., PAN, HCN, C₂H₂)
- Objective F: Flying in formation with Metop-SG will provide synergies with IASI and Sentinel-5 for measuring tropospheric composition (e.g., O₃, NO₂, CH₄, N₂O)





Tomography by infra-red limb imaging

- Imaging Fourier-Transform Spectrometer
- Measuring in the thermal IR with high spectral resolution
- Subsequent images/interferograms can be combined in a tomographic retrieval to get high spatial resolution volumetric temperature and trace gas observations



Limb imaging and tomographic retrieval concept





Limb imaging and tomographic retrieval concept

Flying in loose formation with MetOp-SG will provide synergies with IASI-NG



Airborne Limb-Imaging Demonstrator GLORIA (providing partial evidence of SRL-4)



Example: Biomass burning pollution







Mission Level 2 Products



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10

Key Mission L2 Requirements



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Required resolution of L2 products:

- Vertically ~1km
- Horizontally ~50 x 50 km
- Across track coverage ~ 500km

to detect small scale structures and waves

Mission L1 requirements



Requirement	Value Goals	(all TBD)
Instrument	Imaging Fourier Transform Spectrometer	
Observation mode	Limb viewing	
Waveband	720 to 2200 cm ⁻¹ ~ 4.55 to 13.9 μm	
Spatial coverage	V: H:	5-115 km 500 km
Spatial sampling	V: H (ACT): D (ALT):	1 km and SEDF <1.2km ~50 km (with sub-sampling to ~25 km) ~50 km
Spectral sampling / resolution	OPD: Sampling: ILS FWHM:	5 cm 0.1 cm ⁻¹ < 0.125 cm ⁻¹
Sensitivity (NESR)	< 13 nW.cm ⁻² < 3.3 nW.cm ⁻²	² .sr ⁻¹ .cm @ 800 cm ⁻¹ ² .sr ⁻¹ .cm @ 1650 cm ⁻¹

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12

Key System specification



Requirement Value

Orbit	Loose formation with MetOp-SG (co-imaging with IASI-NG)		
	→ SSO orbit @ ~835km 09:30 LTDN TBC		
Lifetime	5 years (with 10 years consumables)		

Requirement	Value	
Launcher	Compatible with launcher policy (VEGA-C or Ariane 6)	
	 Follow tailored ESA standards for Earth- Explorer missions 	
Platform	Re-use of heritage platform encouraged	
	 Compliant with CleanSpace "DIVE guidelines" for de-orbit and casualty risk 	



13

Mission technical challenges



Classical mission architecture: 1 satellite, 1 payload, VEGA-C launcher

Mission and platform:

Achieve spatial and temporal co-registration with MetOp-SG

Payload:

- Imaging Fourier Transform Spectrometer (IFTS) meeting performance and observation requirements:
 - Large waveband from MWIR to LWIR → detector, optics
 - Spectral resolution and sampling
 - Large spatial coverage with a 1:5 ratio (Vertical 110km x Swath 500km)
 - Cooling subsystem → mass, cost, complexity

 - IFTS elements → stability, metrology, straylight control
- Achieve the required TRL level for critical elements of the payload





Principle of Fourier Transform spectrometer, for illustration only

Key payload trade-offs



• Payload architecture:

- Detector trade-off: technologies/materials, single sensor versus multiple sensors
- Across Track swath coverage: Azimuth scanning mechanism versus rectangular FoV
- Calibration: internal and external sources
- Redundancy concept

• IFTS configuration:

- Number of ports, dichroic
- Scanning type: rotating or linear scanning, symmetrical and asymmetrical scanning, etc.
- 1D or 3D metrology
- Sizing: aperture, OPD, spatial sampling (binning), performance and stability
- Cooling subsystem:
 - Stirling cooler, Pulse tube cooler and Reverse Turbo Brayton
 - Cryostat, Integrated Dewar Cooler Assembly
- Instrument processor: on-board versus ground processing



50 km

Measurement pattern with 500x110km FoV

50 km



Measurement pattern with 100x110km

FoV and azimuth scanning

Summary



CAIRT – Changing Atmosphere Infra-Red Tomography Explorer

- First imaging IR limb sounder in space
- First comprehensive measurements of the relevant processes from troposphere to lower thermosphere
- First global 3D tomographic mapping of the atmospheric structure at unprecedented scales
- A three-dimensional picture of temperature and trace gases profiles with near global coverage every two days
- Near real time radiance inputs for weather prediction and air quality models

Understanding the atmosphere and regional climate change







