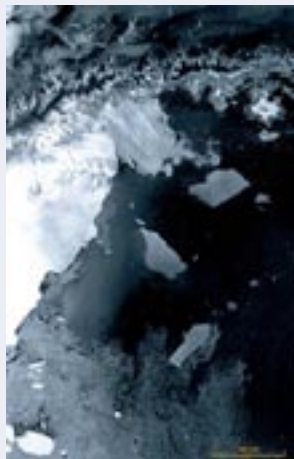


## This Edition

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- ERS2 News
- BNSC Staff Update

## Envisat ASAR IMAGE



One of the first spectacular Envisat images to be published by ESA. The image covers the Antarctic Peninsula. Envisat was launched just in time to capture the dramatic break-up of the Larsen B ice shelf.

For full details see ESA's dedicated Envisat website: [www.envisat.esa.int](http://www.envisat.esa.int)

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## Tom Allan takes over reins at AGM

### The retiring Chair reviews achievements, and the new Chair looks to the future

After thanking the Committee and member companies for all their support, the retiring Chair, Nigel Press, highlighted BARSC's achievements in the past two years. He believes that the association has continued to serve well as a vehicle for dialogue with BNSC and other Government Departments, as well as providing a forum for the discussion of members' mutual business objectives. He pointed out that in the continued improvement in dialogue with BNSC, a vital role has been played by Dr Richard Saull as an industrial secondee in the role of Head of Applications Market Development (a role now filled by Ian Downey). BARSC has continued to improve its communication with members and the outside world, partly through the introduction of the association's newsletter. In the past year BARSC has organised and supported several successful events, including a session at the RSPS Conference, the BNSC Seminars at GIS2001, and, in particular, the GMES Conference which put the UK's early interest in this initiative firmly on the European political map.

Nigel expressed delight in being able to hand over to Tom Allan, who is respected for his experience and wisdom, and will bring to BARSC a more met-ocean focus than has been the case in the past.

In response, Tom saluted the endeavours of Nigel and his other predecessors, and expressed his wish to emulate their achievements and to keep BARSC on its current course, particularly with respect to helping British companies make an important contribution to GMES and other international initiatives. He also hopes to encourage other companies to join BARSC. He believes that BARSC achieves something very worthwhile, and while its influence should not be exaggerated in the whole scheme of the UK in space, the association has played a role out of all proportion with its number of members.

## New committee in place

### Committee members elected at the March 2002 AGM:

Chair	Tom Allan	<a href="mailto:tom@satobsys.co.uk">tom@satobsys.co.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Richard Saull	<a href="mailto:richard@scisys.co.uk">richard@scisys.co.uk</a>
Past Chair	Nigel Press	<a href="mailto:nigel@npagroup.com">nigel@npagroup.com</a>
Acting Treasurer	John Haynes	<a href="mailto:john.haynes@scisys.co.uk">john.haynes@scisys.co.uk</a>
Exec. Sec.	Matthew Stuttard	<a href="mailto:stuttardm@logica.com">stuttardm@logica.com</a>

Members:	Nick Veck	<a href="mailto:nick.veck@infoterra-global.com">nick.veck@infoterra-global.com</a>
	Jacquie Conway	<a href="mailto:jacquie.conway@infoterra-global.com">jacquie.conway@infoterra-global.com</a>
	Zof Stott	<a href="mailto:stottz@logica.com">stottz@logica.com</a>
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# ERS2 Update

## Data supply assured in near future

The exciting and perfect launch of Envisat in March may raise in some minds a query as to the future status of ERS2. We can report, however, a confirmation from ESA that there is no intention to switch off ERS2 during the current period whilst the satellite is operating effectively.

An explanation of the recent problems with the satellite was provided to BARSC at the beginning of the month: the RA2 instrument control unit was at fault – it switched off systems on-board the satellite causing

it to default to safe mode. Whilst in safe mode the satellite drifted about 10 km, and ESA were in the process of moving it to lie in the 1km band of its correct orbit. The instruments themselves are all working properly, though data will not be distributed until the satellite is in the correct orbit.

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All ERS2 instruments functioning properly

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A proposal to operate the satellite beyond the current operating contracts (which run until the end of 2002) will be submitted, and fund-

ing for this will be addressed in the current reshaping of EOEP2. There should be a further update on this at the PBEO in May.

## Recent Staff Changes at BNSC

Mr Ian Downey replaces Dr Richard Saull, as Head, Applications Market Development.

Mr Mike Grimmett, replaces Mr Roger Robinson as National Programme Manager.

Dr Alice Bunn replaces Dr Liz McIntosh as Head of Future Missions.

## MEMBERS NEWS RELEASES

### SOS and Envisat

The launch of Envisat is an event of some importance to SOS. It is remarkable that in the quarter of a century or so since it was demonstrated that useful measurements of sea surface temperature (AVHRR), colour (CZCS), slope (Alt) and roughness (SAR), could be made from polar orbiting satellites, the four sensors have never before been flown on the same platform. The synergy between the different signals produced by a single ocean feature such as a mid-ocean eddy or a pattern of surface slicks may go a long way towards identifying and tracking these features.

The wave/wind measurements of the altimeter carried on Envisat is to be calibrated by SOS and SOC (Southampton Oceanography Centre) who carried out a similar evaluation on ERS-2. The Envisat altimeter brings up to 5 the total number of altimeters presently in orbit (The French/US JASON was successfully launched in December). If this

situation could be sustained long enough to provide simultaneous estimates of wave height and surface winds over the globe we could test the usefulness to mariners and offshore operators of frequent updates in tracking storm centres. This would serve as a useful demonstration of the SOS GANDER concept which aims eventually at real-time operation through a constellation of microsats.

### NPA at 30

It is 30 years since Nigel Press started NPA with interpretation services for Landsat imagery (mostly in black and white!). Today, teams within the company are working on projects all over the world. One group is currently based at the International Court of Justice in The Hague assisting the Nigerian Government with their boundary dispute claims. The InSAR team is studying millimetric surface movements in

earthquake prone regions of Japan; and in Europe we are involved in a multi-million Euro programme to improve the safety and security of the high-pressure gas pipeline network. Our geological interpretation work continues apace with active projects in Alaska and Arabia as well as many areas of Africa and South America. Offshore, in conjunction with most of the world's major oil companies, NPA has already screened 60% of the world's basins for seepage using radar. Later this year, with continued success of Envisat deployment, NPA will take the lead in distributing data and products. A number of anniversary celebrations with clients, collaborators and friends are taking place during the year. The first is a geological dinner amongst the dinosaurs (not geologists!) at the Natural History Museum.