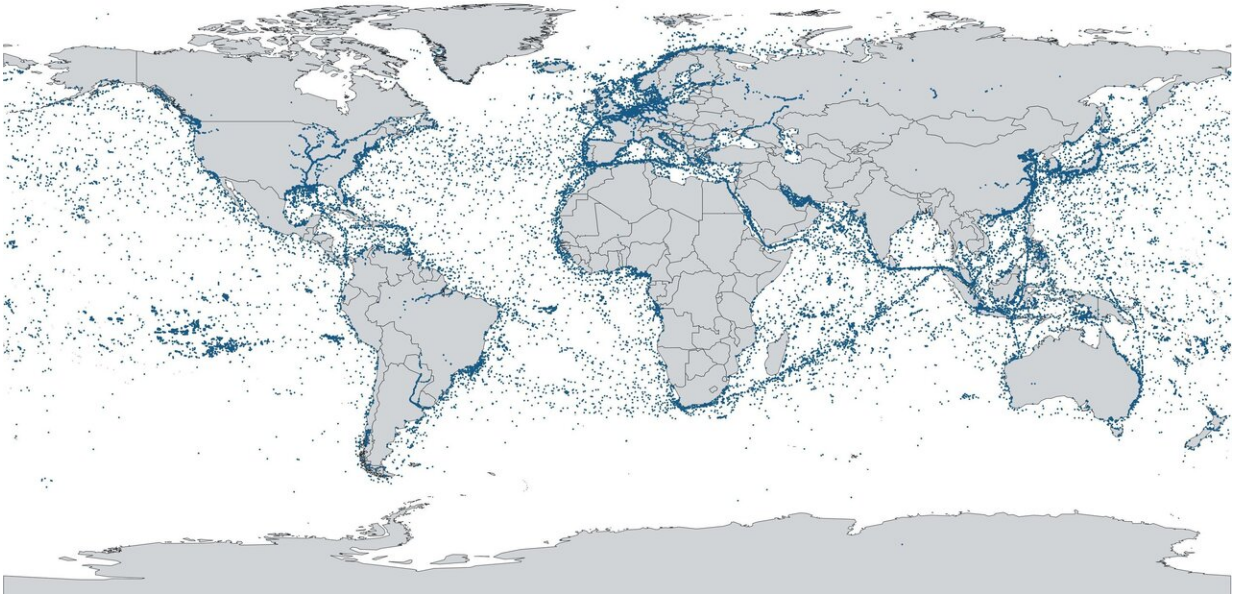


ESAIL's first map of global shipping

December 1 2020



First map of global shipping captured by the ESAIL satellite. Credit: exactEarth

The ESAIL microsatellite for tracking ships at sea has captured 57 000 messages in its first 24 hours of operation, using advanced on-board processing algorithms.

The high-performance [satellite](#) was developed as a Partnership Project to help European and Canadian space companies succeed in the competitive global telecommunications market.

Launched on 2 September aboard an Arianespace Vega from Europe's

spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, ESAIL has now completed the first phase of its in-orbit commission.

The satellite makes the seas safer by enabling industry, maritime authorities and governments to monitor fisheries, manage fleets, protect the environment and monitor security.

It tracks [ships](#) worldwide by detecting messages that ships radio-broadcast with their automatic identification systems, enabling them to be identified even when away from coastal-based monitoring stations.

The satellite was built by LuxSpace under an ESA Partnership Project with the Canadian operator exactEarth. The full team is proud of the impressive first results.

The [project](#) was supported by the Luxembourg Space Agency and other ESA member states.

ESA's Partnership Projects aim to develop sustainable end-to-end systems, right up to in-orbit validation.

Provided by European Space Agency

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