

Press Release

Launch of Chinese Weather Satellite with Swiss Payload

The Chinese Meteorological Administration (CMA) successfully launched the FY-3E weather satellite this morning (07:28 Beijing time; 23:28 UTC). FY-3E will be used for numerical weather forecast and climate simulation. Also on board is the DARA solar radiometer, which was developed and built at the PMOD/WRC. Together with the Chinese SIAR solar radiometer, DARA forms the "Joint Solar Irradiance Monitor" (JTSIM). The aim of JTSIM is to continue the long-term series of measurements of solar radiation ("Total Solar Irradiance", TSI) and thus to contribute to a better understanding of climate change. The TSI is the most important source of energy for the Earth's climate system.

The launch of JTSIM on FY-3E marks an important milestone in the long-term collaboration between PMOD/WRC and the "Changchun Institute for Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics" (CIOMP), which is part of the Chinese Academy of Science, CAS). The collaboration with CIOMP began over 20 years ago in the field of solar radiometry for weather observation and climate research. With JTSIM, this collaboration is now being expanded to include solar radiation measurements in space. Planning began in 2014, and today's satellite launch is a preliminary highlight of the project.

The satellite is operated by CMA and measurement data will be openly available.

Video of the launch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6TrVTUKjUs>

PMOD/WRC, Davos

The Physikalisch-Meteorologisches Observatorium (PMOD), founded in 1907, conducts research into solar radiation and its effects on Earth's climate. In 1926, the PMOD joined the Swiss Research Institute for High Mountain Climate and Medicine Foundation in Davos. As a World Radiation Center (WRC) and international calibration center, we and our 50+ employees ensure worldwide homogeneity of solar radiation measurements and maintain the corresponding reference instruments on which all meteorological radiation measurements worldwide are based.

The data obtained in space and from ground-based measurements are analysed in research projects on climate change and solar physics.

Further Information

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DARA measurement unit (gold), control unit (schwarz) and cables.

