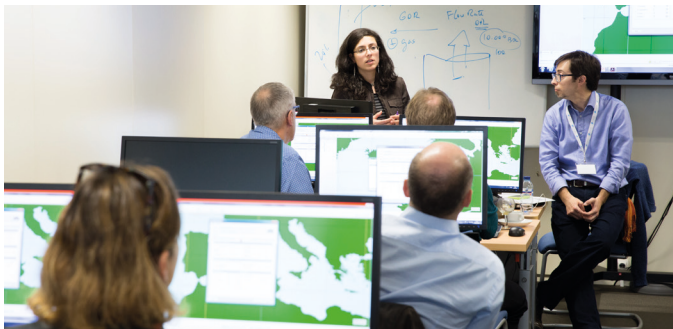


## ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR DECISION MAKING ON THE USE OF DISPERSANTS

EMSA organised a two-day training course for pollution response experts on 3-4 February to present the recently upgraded version of the Dispersant Usage Evaluation Tool-DUET. This software system provides support for decision-making on the use of dispersants when responding to an oil spill, as well as support for contingency planning. The system's three-dimensional numerical model makes it possible to simulate oil spills and the effect of the application of different dispersants. This enables a quantitative comparison of various response options and shows the different levels of effectiveness of the dispersants applied. Among DUET's new features is the ability to simulate a continuous oil release from a seabed blowout, the possibility of simulating and evaluating the effect of subsea dispersant application in addition to the existing surface oil releases. A reference oil database and a document section that includes a number of scientific and technical papers on dispersant usage as well as information on oil weathering and dispersant effectiveness is also part of DUET. The training session was attended by 18 pollution response experts from 15 coastal EU member states, EFTA/EEA coastal states and coastal EU candidate countries.



DUET is an increasingly valuable source of advice for dispersant use

## IMSAS AUDITOR TRAINING HELD AT EMSA AT IMO REQUEST

EMSA hosted a training course on 22-26 February for auditors under the IMSAS for western Europe/EU countries at the request of the International Maritime Organisation. The course provided training on the IMO Member State Audit Scheme and helped to enhance member states' capacity to implement the Audit Scheme. In total 19 participants from the EU member states and Iceland, as well as five EMSA staff members attended the course. All the participants had previous knowledge of auditing principles as well as prior auditing experience.



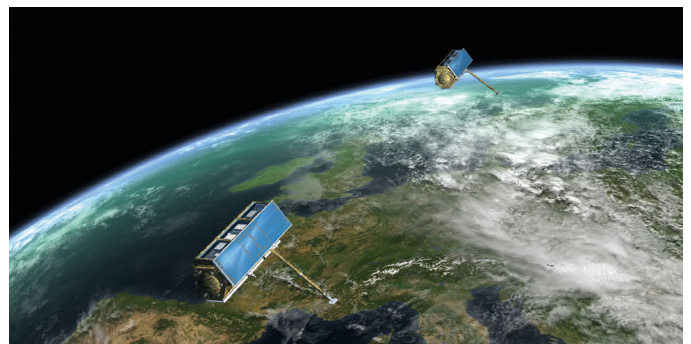
## EQUASIS UNIT HEADS TO OMAN TO PROMOTE INSPECTION DATA EXCHANGE

The Equasis Management Unit, hosted by EMSA, paid a visit to the Riyadh MoU Information Centre and participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Riyadh MoU Committee on Port State Control in Muscat, Oman. The Management Unit visited the Information Centre to support the exchange of inspection data with Equasis. The Riyadh MoU is one of eight PSC regimes to have signed a data-exchange agreement with Equasis. The Management Unit also took part in the 13<sup>th</sup> Riyadh MoU Committee Meeting on PSC to present the Equasis project to the delegates of the following participating states: United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar and Kuwait.



## ADDITIONAL SATELLITE SENSORS TO OFFER INCREASED COVERAGE AND IMPROVED SERVICE

The EMSA portfolio of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites and sensors has been expanded recently. In addition to RADARSAT-2, the Agency's portfolio now includes the European Space Agency (ESA) operated satellite Sentinel-1, launched under the EU's Copernicus programme, as well as Airbus's TerraSar-X / TanDEM-X constellation. Data from Sentinel-1 is already being used to provide EMSA's oil spill and vessel detection services (CleanSeaNet) in an economically efficient manner and to provide near real time services over all European waters. TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X will allow the acquisition of high-resolution and wide-area radar images, delivering optimised revisit time, increased coverage and improved vessel detection capacity.



Airbus's TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X constellation © DLR

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**PROCUREMENT:** Provision of Radarsat satellite program licenses for EMSA Earth Observation services (deadline: 5/03/2016)