

## FROM PIXELS TO POLICIES:

# Charting a path for responsible data governance in Earth Observation - 216

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## What Earth Observation is?

Defined as “a methodology to assist in characterizing the nature and/or condition of phenomena on, above or below the earth’s surface by means of observation and measurements from space platforms, specifically, at present such methods depend on the emission and reflection of electromagnetic radiation”.

## Which legislation applies?

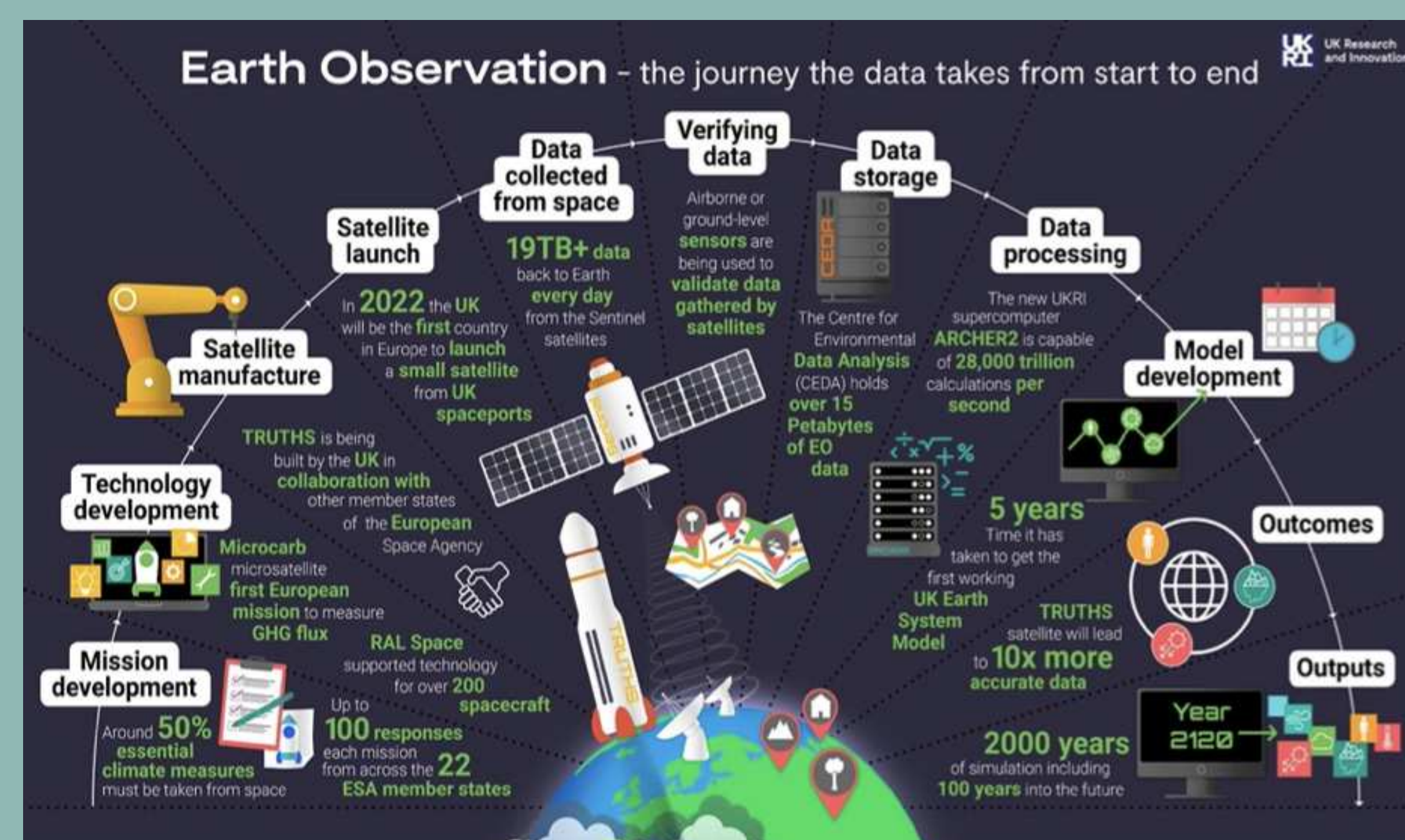
- Statues governing EO data operations
- International Guidelines on EO policies
  - UN Remote Sensing Principles
  - UN-SPIDER and Disaster Chart
  - "Resolution 40"
  - INSPIRE Directive and Copernicus
  - UN General Assembly Resolution 41/64

## What’s about EO data?

It refers to information collected by satellites and other platforms about the Earth's surface, atmosphere, and oceans. These data include images, measurements, and other types of geospatial information captured using various sensors and instruments aboard satellites.

Range of applications:

- Environmental monitoring
- Disaster management
- Agriculture
- Urban planning
- Climate change research



Key areas of implication:

- Privacy and security,
- Data governance,
- Legal and ethical issues
- Technical considerations

## Acquisition of digital evidence abroad

According to the Budapest Convention, a dual regime is established for handling such data:

- Data within State Parties' territories: the Convention permits state authorities to order internet service providers to preserve, protect, and produce the data they possess. It outlines specific procedures for seizing and acquiring data, including in real time.
- Data outside jurisdictional boundaries: the data can only be requested and obtained with the prior consent of the State Party where the data are stored or where the service provider is based. Engaging in transborder data access without the authorization of the concerned State constitutes a breach of its territorial integrity, thus amounting to an international offense.

## References

- Draft report UN Working Group on remote sensing of the earth by satellites, 2nd ed., 8 Feb 1973, UN Doc A/AC 105/C1/WG4/L4.
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