

Sea surface temperature - GHR SST and the CEOS Virtual Constellation for SST

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In the last decade, the satellite-based sea surface temperature (SST) community has coalesced around the efforts of the Group for High Resolution SST (GHR SST), developing a global, distributed, and coordinated set of SST products for both operational and climate-oriented applications. These products conform to a common content and format standard, and are made available in both near real-time and delayed mode through a three-tiered data management system consisting of Regional Data Assembly Centres, a Global Data Assembly Centre, and a Long Term Stewardship and Reanalysis Facility. More recently, the Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS) has begun establishing a set of Virtual Constellations (VC) organized around parameters like ocean color and ocean surface vector winds. These VCs are attempting to organize and coordinate their domains much like GHR SST has done for SST. In 2010, GHR SST agreed to begin the process of formalizing its relationship with CEOS through the establishment of an SST-VC. The SST-VC will serve to connect the broad GHR SST community, consisting of agencies, universities, and commercial partners, with the CEOS organization of space agencies. An overview of the CEOS SST-VC will be provided along with a status report on its progression through the CEOS approval process.