



Mission Summary: Aquarius/SAC-D



Salient Features

- Instruments:
 - NASA- L-band Radiometer/Scatterometer
 - CONAE Instruments- ROSA, CARMEN, HSC, NIRST, MWR, DCS, TDP
- Launch Vehicle: Delta II
- Launch date: 10 June 2011
- Orbit: Sun Synchronous, 98° inclination, 657km
- Start of Phase E: 1 December 2011
- EOM: December 2017
- Partnership with CONAE (Service Platform & MOCC)
- Principal Investigator: *Gary Lagerloef, ESR*
- Project Manager: *Gene Feldman, GSFC*
- NASA Program Executive: *Charles Webb, HQ*
- NASA Program Manager: *Greg Stover, LaRC*



Science

- Investigate the links between the global water cycle, ocean circulation and climate
- Make global, space-based measurements of Sea Surface Salinity (SSS)
- Provide 0.2 psu (practical salinity unit) accuracy at monthly, 150 km resolution
- Observe and model seasonal and year-to-year variations of SSS, and how these relate to changes in the water cycle and ocean circulation
- Aquarius has begun to yield an unprecedented view of ocean's role in climate and weather