**The International Charter**

**“Space and Major Disasters”**

**Purpose**

An international agreement by Satellite Operators to provide priority access to satellite data in the event of Major Disasters.

*Founded by Space Agencies in 1999 following UNISPACE III.*


- Disaster response
- Multi-satellite - Free Data - Priority & fast access
- Satellite tasking and archive data
- Data processing to pre-determined level

**Charter Members**

- ABAE: VRSS-1, VRSS-2
- CNES: PLEIADES, SPOT
- CSA: CBERS-4, GF-1, GF-2, GF-3, GF-4, FY-3C, JILIN-1, OV-1S-1, OHS-2, Beijing-2
- CONAE: SAOCOM-1A
- CNSA: RCM-1, RCM-2, RCM-3
- DLR: TerraSAR-X/TanDEM-X
- DMC: UK-DMC2, Alan-B
- ESA: Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2
- EUMETSAT: Meteosat, Metop
- ISRO: Cartosat-2, Resourcesat-2, Resourcesat-2A
- INPE: CBERS-4, CBERS-4A
- JAXA: ALOS-2, XBO HDTV-5
- KDE: KOMPSAT-2, KOMPSAT-3, KOMPSAT-3A, KOMPSAT-5
- NASA: POES, Suomi-NPP, GOES
- ROSCOSMOS: RESURS-DK, METEOR-M, KANOPUS-V, KANOPUS-V-1K, RESURS-P
- UAESA: DubaiSat-2, Khalifat
- USGS: Landsat-7, Landsat-8, WorldView, Geoeye

**Charter Satellites**

- PLANET, ICEYE, SATELLOGIC, BlackSky
Disasters Types Supported

Designed to address requests concerning major disasters caused by:

**Natural events**
- Earthquakes
- Fires
- Floods
- Ice jams
- Landslides
- Tsunamis
- Ocean storms
- Volcanic eruptions

**Man-made events**
- Oil spills
- Industrial accidents

Authorized Users

1. Must be a national disaster management authority or its delegated agency in that country
2. Must have the capacity to download and use maps
3. Must be able to submit and pursue an activation request in English

Mechanisms to Activate the Charter

- **Direct:** The bodies authorized to directly request the Charter to be activated for a disaster occurring in their country are the Authorized Users (AUs). Typically civil protection agencies, governmental relief organizations, or other authorities with a mandate related to disaster management.
- **Via an Authorized User on behalf of a user from another country** without AU: Authorized Users can request support for a disaster in another country with which they cooperate for relief purposes.
- **Via the UN for UN users:** The Charter has an agreement with UN OOSA (Vienna) and UNITAR/UNOSAT (Geneva) to provide support to UN agencies. UN OOSA and UNITAR/UNOSAT may submit requests on behalf of users from the United Nations.
- **Asia Pacific users via Sentinel Asia:** Sentinel Asia is a regional collaboration for satellite-based emergency response in Asia Pacific. The Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (Since 2009) can submit activation requests on behalf of Sentinel Asia’s national users.

Charter Operational Loop

- Verifies the identity of the caller and the completeness of the Request. Sends the URF to the ECO.
- Processes the info received.
- Sends the tasking requests to the agencies’ Mission Planner.
- Sends the PM a dossier with the summary of the performed actions.
- Reassesses the situation. Sends the tasking requests to the agencies’ Mission Planner.
- Further processes and interprets the data, and delivers Value Added Products (VAPs) to the EU via the PM.
2020 Activations – Radar Data Delivered

2020 Activations – US Commercial Delivered

Examples of Activation Products

Examples of Activation Products
Examples of Activation Products

ROSOSMOS – Kanopus-V  
September 2021 – Flood in Sudan

INPE – CBERS-4  
June 2021 – Oil Spill in Sri Lanka

Examples of Activation Products

DLR – TerraSAR-X  

Examples of Activation Products

CNES – Pleiad 1B  
January/February 2021 – Landslide and Flood in Eswatini

Examples of Activation Products

USGS – WORLDVIEW-2  
January/February 2021 – Landslide and Flood in Eswatini
Charter Summary Facts

- Space technologies can deliver key information that brings benefit to the definition, planning, implementation, monitoring & assessment of disaster relief operations.
- The Charter is focused on the immediate response phase and services of national disaster management centres and the International Humanitarian community (e.g. UN).
- It is growing: 735 disasters covered since 2000 in 126 countries worldwide.
- Building on a decade of success in making satellite data available to users for disaster response, the Charter is now opening its doors even wider with Universal Access.
- Universal Access benefits national users in countries beyond those of the Charter members, who were previously unable to make direct requests to the Charter during emergency situations.
- Currently, there are 40 new AUs were accepted thanks to the UA process in the following countries: Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Bolivia, Cameroon, Cayman, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Caledonia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.
Universal Access
Already 40 countries since 2012
In Africa: Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe

A registration form* (in English, French and Spanish) is available for national authorities to express interest in becoming a Charter Authorized User.
1. The candidate fills in the questionnaire providing all required information.
2. The questionnaire, with an official cover letter from the organisation, must be sent to: ExecutiveSecretariat@disasterscharter.org
3. The request is assessed by the Charter members.

*The form may be downloaded together with the Universal Access Information brochure from the Charter website: www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/activating-the-charter or www.disasterscharter.org/web/guest/home

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Contact Charter Webmaster at webmaster@disasterscharter.org

www.disasterscharter.org
Emergency enquiries from users requiring direct access to Charter resources should be addressed to: ExecutiveSecretariat@disasterscharter.org
General requests for information should be addressed to: webmaster@disasterscharter.org