

## **AMSR-E and its follow-on, AMSR2**

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The Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer for the Earth Observing System (AMSR-E) was built in Japan, and it has been flying on the Aqua satellite. Aqua has completed its prime mission in September 2008. The observations from AMSR-E are being used by scientists all over the world in conjunction with other A-Train satellite instruments to monitor and understand hydrological processes over land, ocean, and in the cryosphere. The status of AMSR-E will be presented. Images of AMSR-E products will be shown, as well as a summary of the ongoing research with these data.

AMSR-E's follow-on instrument is AMSR2, which will be launched on JAXA's GCOM W1 satellite in 2011. AMSR2 will be a copy of AMSR-E with a few enhancements, and will provide a critical bridge of climate observations until the first Microwave Imager Sounder (MIS) flies on the second NPOESS satellite. At the time of this writing JAXA is considering placing GCOM W1 in the same orbit as Aqua, as part of the A train constellation. The benefits of the collocation of the two AMSRs will be discussed and examples given of the research possibilities.