EU launches Sentinel space project

The world's largest ever civil Earth-observation programme begins with the launch of the *Sentinel-1a* radar satellite, the first of a fleet of spacecraft funded under the EU's *Copernicus* project which will return an unprecedented volume of data on the state of the planet

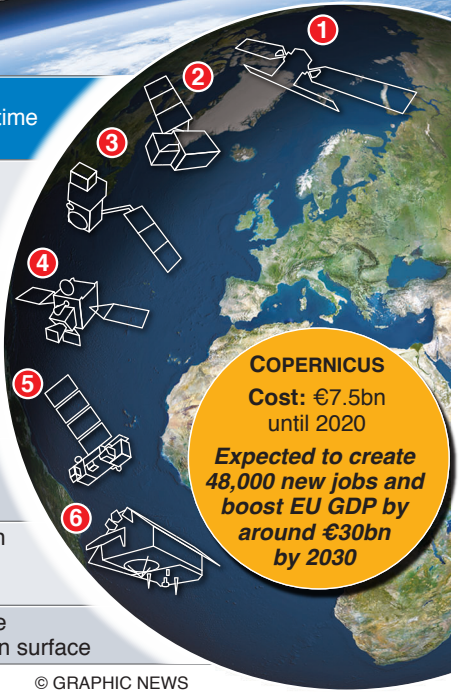
Sentinel-1a, launched April 3, will be followed by ***Sentinel-1b*** in 2015

Key use of S1a and S1b will be in disaster response

SENTINEL MISSIONS *(2014-20)*

Each has twin satellites to reduce time between overflights of given area

1. **S1:** Capable of acquiring high-resolution radar image of entire planet within six days, regardless of weather
2. **S2:** Will provide multi-spectral imagery of land changes such as vegetation cover
3. **S3:** Will support ocean forecasting systems and climate monitoring
4. **S4:** High-orbiting atmospheric sensor will monitor gases such as ozone
5. **S5:** Low-orbiting, high-resolution atmospheric sensor to assist monitoring of air quality
6. **S6:** Next U.S.-European satellite mission to measure height of ocean surface



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