

Absolut Sensing selected by the Copernicus program of the European Union for the satellite monitoring of methane emissions

European support, coordinated by the European Commission and the European Space Agency, takes the form of a contract for the purchase of satellite data on methane leaks to be detected by Absolut Sensing.

The ability of methane (CH₄) to trap heat is 80 times greater than that of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Unlike CO₂, which remains in the atmosphere for several centuries, CH₄ dissipates in less than 10 years. Acting on methane leaks is relatively easy, from the moment they are detected, and has an almost immediate impact on slowing down global warming.

Simonetta Cheli, Director of Earth Observation Programs at ESA, commented: *“I would like to congratulate Absolut Sensing for joining the Copernicus Contributing Missions programme. This is a testament to the evolution of Copernicus, the importance of integrating commercial data, and a vote of confidence for the European Earth Observation NewSpace.”*

The contract signed between Absolut Sensing and the Copernicus Contributing Missions program of the European Commission amounts to several million euros for a period of 5 years. First, it will see the definition of pilot cases to supplement the data already provided by the satellites of the Copernicus program. Then, once the first Absolut Sensing satellite is in orbit, the data will be delivered to CAMS (Copernicus Atmospheric Composition Services) and other Copernicus stakeholders. It could then lead to a larger operational data delivery contract once the first 12 satellites are in flight.

“This contract award is a clear proof that the European Union is taking global warming resulting from methane emissions as a serious issue. We look forward to providing precise, reliable and frequent methane measurement data to help in the fight against climate change.” said Tristan Laurent, Chief Executive Officer of Absolut Sensing.

For complete coverage of the earth's surface and daily revisit over areas of interest, Absolut Sensing plans to send a constellation of 24 satellites by 2027, called GESat. A first test satellite will be launched in 2024, before sending a first series of 12 satellites in 2025, followed by 12 others from 2026-2027. This represents an investment program of around 100 million euros.

These methane emissions data are intended for emitters, insurance companies, and financial players seeking to reduce the carbon footprint of their investments. Absolut Sensing's goal is to become the preferred provider of methane data for organizations and governments wishing to detect and control emissions.

Absolut Sensing

Absolut Sensing develops the technologies needed to monitor, understand and anticipate climate change. As part of the deployment of our GESat satellite constellation, we design, integrate and operate hyperspectral remote sensing systems embedding artificial intelligence to enable near real-time detection and alerting of greenhouse gas emissions.

Absolut Group

Created in 2010, the Absolut Group actively participates in developing French sovereignty in the fields of space, environmental control, new energies and quantum digital technology. The group comprises four subsidiaries:

- Absolut System, which develops complex cryogenic and space equipment.
- Absolut Sensing, which produces data and analyzes for detecting greenhouse gas emissions from the management of Earth observation satellites.
- Absolut Hydrogen, which makes liquid hydrogen accessible for the decarbonization of industry, heavy mobility and decentralized energy production.
- Absolut Quanta, which aims to decarbonize the data processing industry.

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