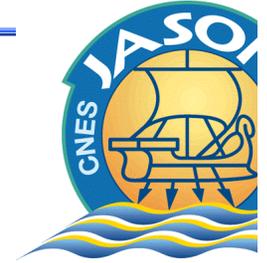


From TOPEX/Poseidon to Jason



TOPEX

Similar high accuracy reference ocean altimetry mission, with added emphasis on operational oceanography and near real-time products



Jason

First use of the Proteus mini-satellite platform



STATUS



- **Functional chain validation: completed on schedule**
- **Operational readiness review: mid May**
- **Shipment of the satellite to Vandenberg AFB by mid June**
- **Current launch date: August 10 (9th anniversary of TOPEX launch)**



SLR Tracking Requirements

- **Science verification phase (6 months) : intensive tracking**
 - SLR essential contributor to absolute calibration (short arcs)
 - SLR contributes to the TOPEX / Jason altimeter cross-calibration
 - SLR contributes the global spacecraft models calibration
 - SLR used for DORIS internal time delay in-flight verification
 - SLR used for DORIS and GPS vertical phase center offsets verification

- **Routine phase : regular tracking**
 - SLR contributes to the overall orbit accuracy (with DORIS and GPS)
 - SLR major contributor to the orbit centering

- **Note: during the verification phase TOPEX and Jason will be flying in formation (1 to 10 minutes apart)**