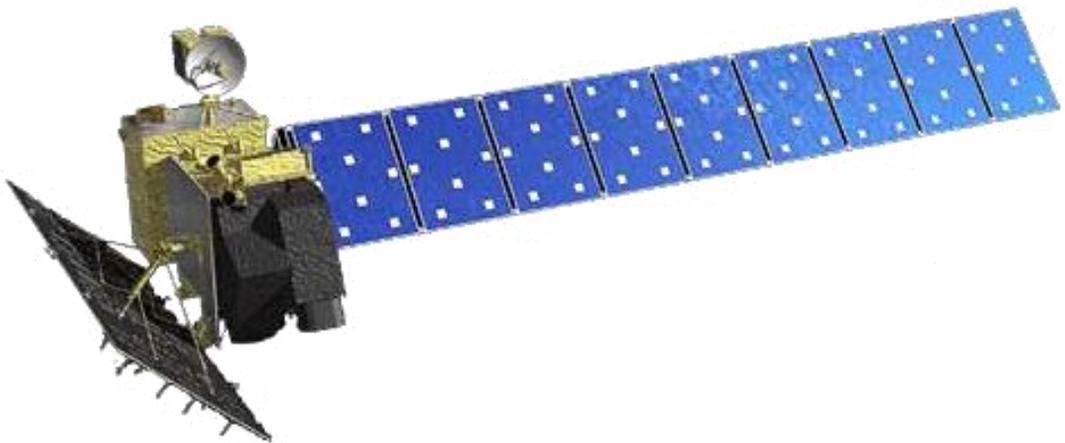




ALOS

Advanced Land Observing Satellite, ALOS is a Japanese Earth-Observation satellite, developed by JAXA. The objective of the mission is to provide the user community with data of sufficient resolution to be able to generate 1:25,000 scale maps. It is one of the largest Earth observing satellites ever developed. ALOS has a GPS receiver and a laser reflector as tools for orbit determination. ALOS is continuously operating more than 4 years and it works very well. ALOS has three mission instruments i.e. L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar called PALSAR, and two optical sensors called PRISM and AVNIR-2.

It contains three sensors which will be used for cartography and disaster monitoring of Asia and the Pacific. In 2008 some issue was there for its blur image but JAXA declared that the problem was solved.



ALOS Satellite Sensor Specifications

Resolution:	PRISM (at nadir) 2.5 m AVNIR-2 (at nadir) 10 m
Launch Vehicle:	H-IIA Rocket
Launch Site:	Tanegashima Space Centre
Satellite Weight:	4,000kg (at Lift-off)
Nominal swath width:	PRISM (at nadir) 35 km x 35 km (can be up to 70 km) AVNIR-2 (at nadir) 70 km x 70 km
Bands:	PRISM: 480 – 710 nm AVNIR-2 Blue: 420 – 500 nm AVNIR-2 Green: 520- 600 nm AVNIR-2 Red: 610- 690 nm Near Infrared: 760- 890 nm
Archive availability:	From 2006
Programmability:	NO
Minimum area of purchase:	Full scene
Stereo available:	YES – PRISM only
Best scale:	1:15,000 – (PRISM) 1:15,000 – (PRISM pan-sharpened AVNIR-2) 1:40,000 – (AVNIR-2)
Orbit:	Sub cycle: 2 days Sun Synchronous Sub-Recurrent Altitude: Approximately 692km (above the equator) Inclination: Approximately 98.2 degrees
Life:	3 to 5 years
Recurrent Period:	46 days

In April 2011, the satellite was found to have switched itself into power-saving mode due to deterioration of its solar arrays. It was suggested that meteoroids may have struck ALOS, creating the anomaly which eventually led to its shutdown. On 12 May 2011, JAXA sent a command to the satellite to power down its batteries and declared it dead in orbit. The ALOS AVNIR-2 and PRISM Imagery and PALSAR data is available from the exiting archives.

ALOS-2 also known as Daichi-2 launched on 24th May 2014 from the Tanegashima Space Centre. ALOS-2 will continue the L-band SAR observations of the ALOS PALSAR (Phased Array L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar) and will expand data utilization by enhancing its performance.

