# **Lessons Learnt on Scout missions (small-class research missions) in FutureEO**

# **Feedback from Participating States:**

## Introduction

Scout missions are small-class research missions, aimed to advance the Earth Science agenda and complementing the classic Earth Explorer. The Scouts were implemented as a new element in FutureEO1 Segment 1.

As defined in FutureEO1 Segment 1: The Scouts distinguish themselves by a more pro-active role of industry and academia (“co-engineering”), a low-cost approach (~30 M€ CaC industrial cost including launch and in-orbit commissioning) and a rapid development cycle (3 years from selection to launch).

Within FutureEO1 Segment 1 the first Scout cycle was initiated in May 2019 by issuing the Scout ITT. Currently HydroGNSS is being implemented with a launcher readiness for both HydroGNSS satellites in Q4 2024. (Please see attached presentation for some further details.)

Before we initiate the 2nd Scout cycle in Segment 2 we are performing a 360 Degree Lessons Learnt exercise and would welcome your feedback.

Potential questions / aspects for consideration

* What is your core interest in the Scout missions within FutureEO?
* Scouts and their connection to commercialisation ambitions at ESA
* Scouts in the context of New Space
* Scouts and their connection to EO science

**Feedback on:**

* Programmatic boundary conditions
* Evaluation process and selection criteria
* Transition between the different phases – system consolidation studies – Ph A to the Implementation
* ESA Executive management of the consortia
* SAG (Science Advisory Groups) (also considering the science maturity raising)
* Consortium expertise and resources
* TRL raining activities
* Risk retirement activities

Overall – what to start, what to continue and what to stop?