SPACE INSIDER
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Global EO Satellite Manufacturing Overview (2019-2024)

May 2025

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EO Market – Executive Summary

Global EO Satellite Market

From 2019 to 2024, Space Insider tracked the launch of 12,015 satellites worldwide, with 1,116 dedicated to EO missions. China and the United States dominated global EO satellite production and launch, accounting for 38% and 36%, respectively. The market peaked in 2023 (324 satellites manufactured and launched) due to aggressive commercial and defense-driven deployments fueled from: i) Planet Labs' Flock-4 series, ii) CGSTL's Jilin-1 high-resolution satellites, and iii) China's defense-oriented Yaogan-39 series.

The number of EO satellites manufactured and launched declined in 2024 due to: i) constellations reaching maturity, ii) reduced commercial demand and iii) shifting government priorities - exemplified by Planet Labs halving its launches and China's Ministry of Defense halting deployments.

Top EO Mission Segments by Proportion (2019-2024):

- EO Imaging (63%): Led by Planet Labs and CGSTL, dominating commercial and defense applications.
- Radar (13%): Expanded through ICEYE and SAST, strengthening global SAR capabilities.
- Meteorological (9%): China led a surge in 2024 with 34 satellites, offsetting declines in other segments.

European EO Satellite Market

Europe produced 89 EO satellites in the period of 2019-2024 (~8% of the global total), peaking in 2023 (27 satellites) before declining to 15 in 2024 caused by a range of factors, including: i) completion or maturation of major constellation deployments by companies like ICEYE and Alba Orbital, and ii) strategic shifts towards targeted missions and collaborations.

Top EO Mission Segments by Proportion (2019-2024):

- EO Imaging (54%): Dominated by SatRevolution, with key roles played by Open Cosmos and Kongsberg NanoAvionics. Growth driven by demand for high-resolution imagery across agriculture, environmental monitoring, and defense.
- Radar (24%): Led by ICEYE, reinforcing Europe's position in Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology. Enabled reliable, all-weather monitoring for applications in disaster response, maritime surveillance, and insurance analytics.
- Remote Sensing (12%): Spearheaded by Alba Orbital, focusing on affordable and scalable payloads. Deployed in geospatial intelligence, infrastructure tracking, and environmental research.

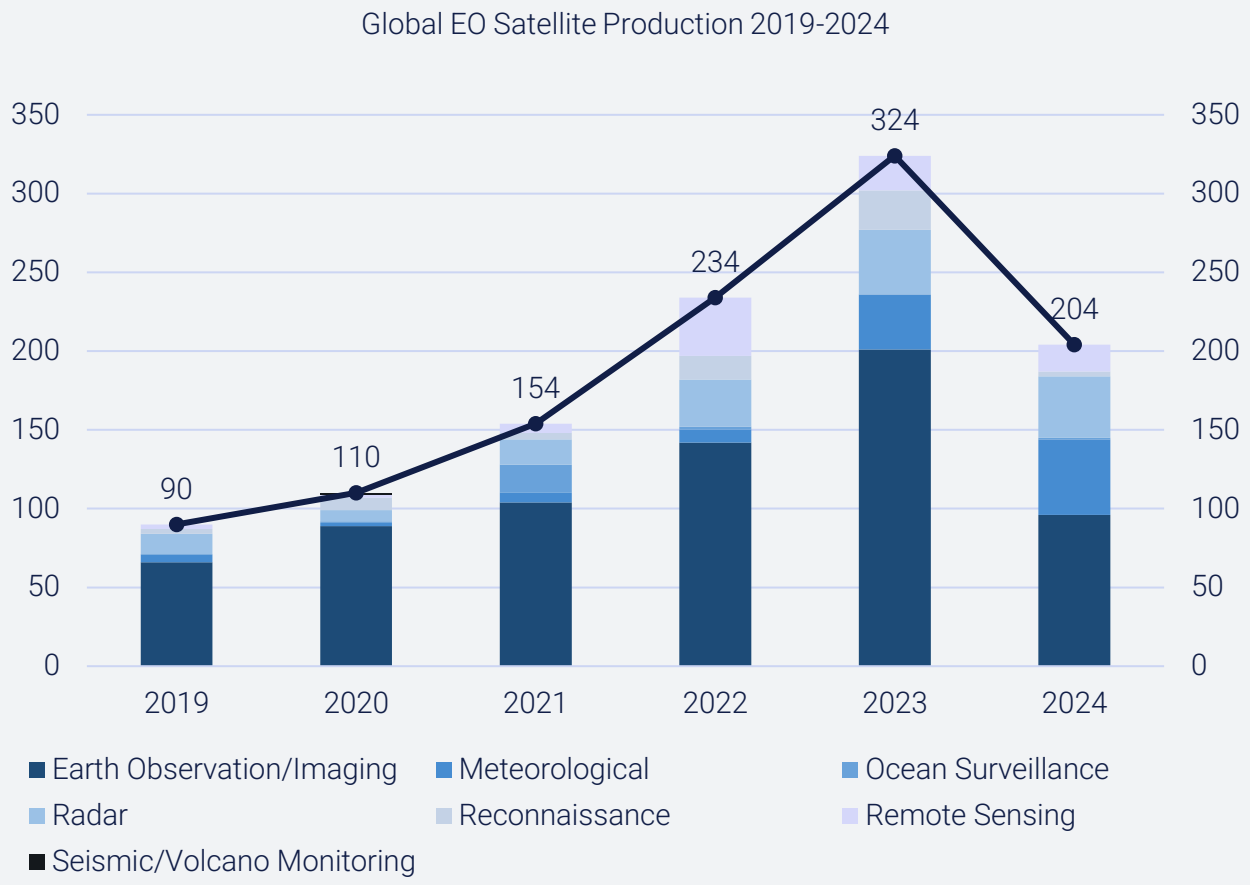
European Strategic Positioning

The top 11 European manufacturers accounted for more than 80% of European EO satellite production, with ICEYE (17%), Alba Orbital (13%) and Airbus (13%) leading. However, exports remained minimal (13% of 89 satellites), indicating a strong customer base domestically

Europe's Strategic Positioning vs. Global Competitors:

- China (38%): Leads in mass production, reconnaissance, and meteorological EO satellites, backed by state funding.
- U.S. (36%): Private-sector leadership, high-resolution imaging dominance, and a strong commercial market.
- Europe (8%): Excels in SAR and small satellite innovation but lags in large-scale constellations and global expansion.
- To remain competitive, Europe needs increased investment, stronger commercial-defense integration, and international partnerships to counter China's expansion and U.S. private-sector dominance in EO satellite manufacturing and services.

EO Satellite Drivers & Decline: 2023–2024



Global EO Satellite Manufacturing Trend Analysis

- Between 2019 and 2024, a total of 1,116 Earth Observation (EO) satellites were launched globally. Annual launches rose steadily from 90 in 2019 to a peak of 324 in 2023, before dropping to 204 in 2024, reflecting a strong CAGR of 17.8% over the period.
- 2023: Growth was driven by major deployments from Planet Labs (72 SuperDove satellites via SpaceX), CGSTL (multiple Jilin-1 Gaofen satellites for urban and disaster monitoring), and the Chinese Ministry of Defense (Yaogan 39 SAR and optical satellites), highlighting a global shift toward commercial and defense-focused EO.
- 2024: Launches declined as Planet Labs halved output from 72 to 36 and the Chinese Ministry of Defense paused activity after 27 launches in 2023. However, growth continued in meteorological EO, with Tianjin Yunyao Aerospace launching 26 YUNYAO-1 satellites, built by CGSTL, for GNSS Radio Occultation–based atmospheric monitoring.

Note: The data presented refers to EO satellite launch data, which is used to assess global and European satellite manufacturing output.

Market Map: Europe Earth Observation (EO) Satellite System Integrators by EO Satellite Segment

Earth Observation/Imaging

AAC CLYDE SPACE
AIRBUS DEFENCE & SPACE
NPO Yuzhnoye (KB Yuzhnoye)
SATLANTIS
creotech
TU berlin
SURREY
TÜBİTAK UZAY
avs added value solutions
VZLU CZECH AEROSPACE RESEARCH CENTRE
ENDUROSAT
nano avionics A KONGSBERG COMPANY
KP LABS Mission Complete
SATREVOLUTION
albaorbital
KAYSER-THREDE
ORB ASTRO
OHB ITALIA We.Create.Space.
OPEN COSMOS
University of Maribor

Reconnaissance

ISISPACE
AIRBUS DEFENCE & SPACE
ThalesAlenia Space a Thales / Leonardo company

Radar

ICEYE
OHB
ThalesAlenia Space a Thales / Leonardo company

Meteorological

OHB SWEDEN
ThalesAlenia Space a Thales / Leonardo company

Remote Sensing

SURREY
aerospacelab
albaorbital

Ocean Surveillance

AIRBUS DEFENCE & SPACE
CEiiA

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Disclaimer: Companies with no logo have been highlighted in red.

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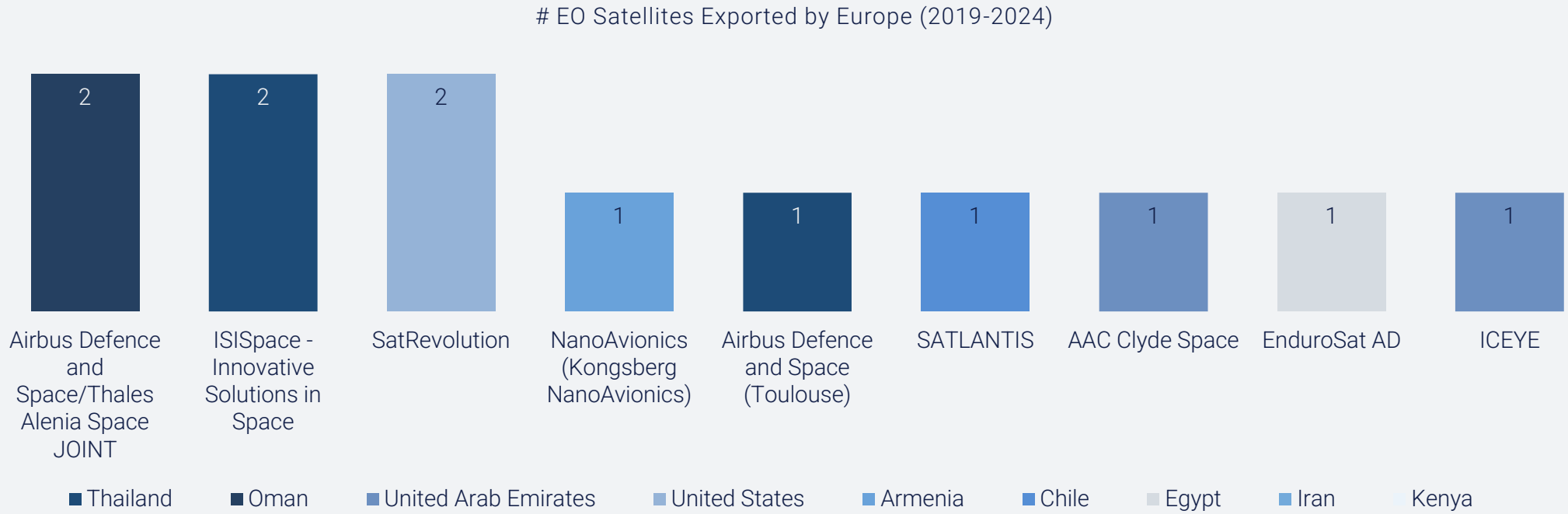
Note: These are the logos of EO satellites system integrators (excluding EO sensor manufacturers) for satellites launched between 2019 and 2024

Key EO Export Destinations & Suppliers



- Of the 89 EO satellites manufactured in Europe during 2019–2024, only 12 were exported, highlighting a strong emphasis on domestic and regional demand.
- Thailand, Oman, and the UAE were the main export markets, with notable acquisitions by the Royal Thai Air Force, UAE Armed Forces, and ETCO (Oman).
- Key European exporters included Airbus, Thales Alenia Space, SatRevolution, and ISISpace, underscoring Europe's capability to deliver high-quality EO solutions globally, despite limited export volumes.

Note: The data presented refers to EO satellite launch data, which is used to assess global and European satellite manufacturing output.

The full report is available on the Space Insider Intelligence platform

Contact us at Hello@resonance.holdings to access it

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