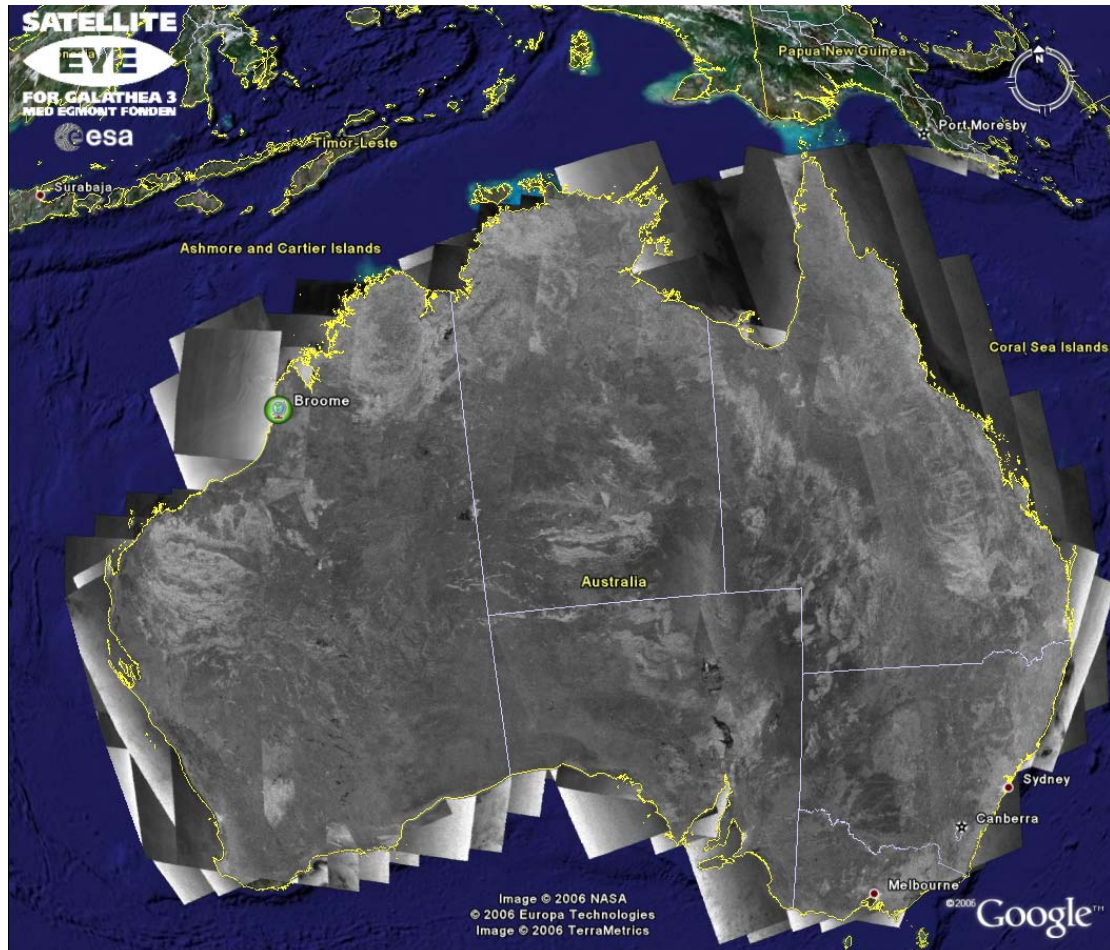


### Australia observed by radar



*Envisat, ESA'S environmental satellite, has taken these radar images of Australia*

In contrast to an image taken by an optical sensor this radar image is in black and white and the brighter areas represent rougher surfaces or high soil humidity. Google allows to dim the radar image and to see the conventional satellite images below. This reveals that mostly mountainous areas appear bright. However also some salt lakes appear light, due to a dried out and therefore cracked surface. Some highland in the north also appear exceptionally bright because adjacent satellite tracks from different seasonal (wet - dry) conditions have been used.

### Technical information

Envisat, ESA's environmental satellite, has acquired these radar images of Australia during the period November 1 to November 9, 2006. The images are acquired in the Global Monitoring Mode (GMM) of the instrument that allows for the first time



global radar coverage of the Earth. The resolution is approximately 1 km and the swath width of each satellite pass is about 400 km. The radar signal from the ocean varies with incidence angle, and therefore the images over the ocean are much brighter on one side (closer to the satellite) than the other (further away from the satellite).

More information about Radar imaging of the Earth from:  
<http://www.eduspace.esa.int/eduspace/main.asp?ulang=en>

The 1 kilometer resolution image for GoogleEarth can be downloaded from  
[http://galathea.oersted.dtu.dk/google/kmz/images/Radar/200611\\_ASAR\\_mosaic\\_Australia.kmz](http://galathea.oersted.dtu.dk/google/kmz/images/Radar/200611_ASAR_mosaic_Australia.kmz)