Dear Colleagues,

The Earth surface modelling community has recognized the need for enhancing the use of Earth Observation (EO) in particular from remote sensing global observing satellites to support and improve the monitoring and understanding of surface processes as complex and intertwined components of the Earth system including land, vegetation, snow, ice, coastal and open waters. A special issue of Remote Sensing attached to a first International surface workshop (http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/iswg/meetings/2017/) will be gathering advances in observing/modelling surfaces (land, water and ice) in particular focusing on satellite-based estimation of soil moisture, snow, land surface temperature and surface water body extents.

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