

# **MethaneSAT:** revolutionizing measurement of methane emissions worldwide

**Jon Goldstein**  
**Senior Director, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs**  
**Environmental Defense Fund**

Methane is causing **25% of man-made global warming.**

**Oil & gas** is the largest industrial source of U.S. methane emissions.

**Methane is the primary constituent of natural gas:** emissions are a public health, climate and waste problem.

Methane from O&G production sources is emitted with **VOCs, a building block of ozone pollution.**



**Methane is invisible to the naked eye.**

**An ecosystem of methane-detecting satellites is emerging, each with distinct capabilities and purpose.**

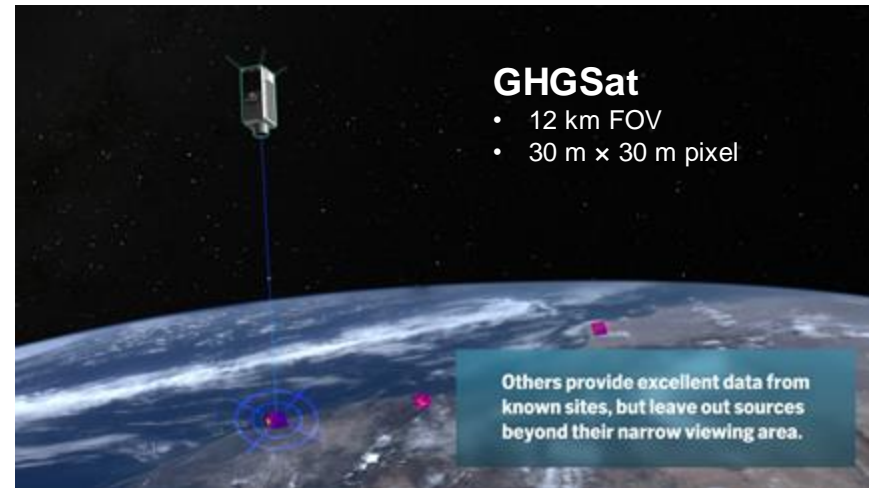
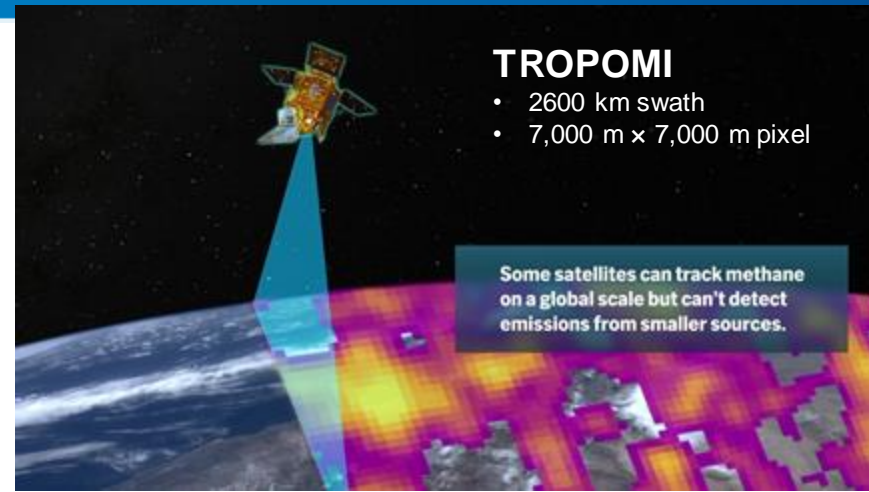
They're giving companies, regulators, investors, and the public a new level of transparency and insight for tackling an urgent climate challenge.



# MethaneSAT & other satellites

GLOBAL MAPPING	AREA MAPPING	LOCAL MAPPING
Global & large-scale regions Large point sources	Area sources Point sources Sector-wide quantification	Point sources Facility level attribution
TROPOMI SCIAMACHY GOSAT GOSAT-GW CO2M	MethaneSAT	GHGSat PRISMA EnMAP Carbon Mapper ZY1

MethaneSAT was designed to fill a gap in understanding the magnitude of methane emissions at a regional scale





# MethaneSAT will be the most advanced methane-tracking satellite in space

**Goal** | To quantify methane emission rates, from multiple sectors, including at least 80% of global oil and gas production regions

**Access** | All data freely available online through [methanesat.org](https://methanesat.org)

**Purpose** | Provide radical transparency through freely accessible methane data on a global scale

**Launch** | March 2024; planned lifetime of 5 years



## Partners



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Ball Aerospace &  
Technologies Corp.



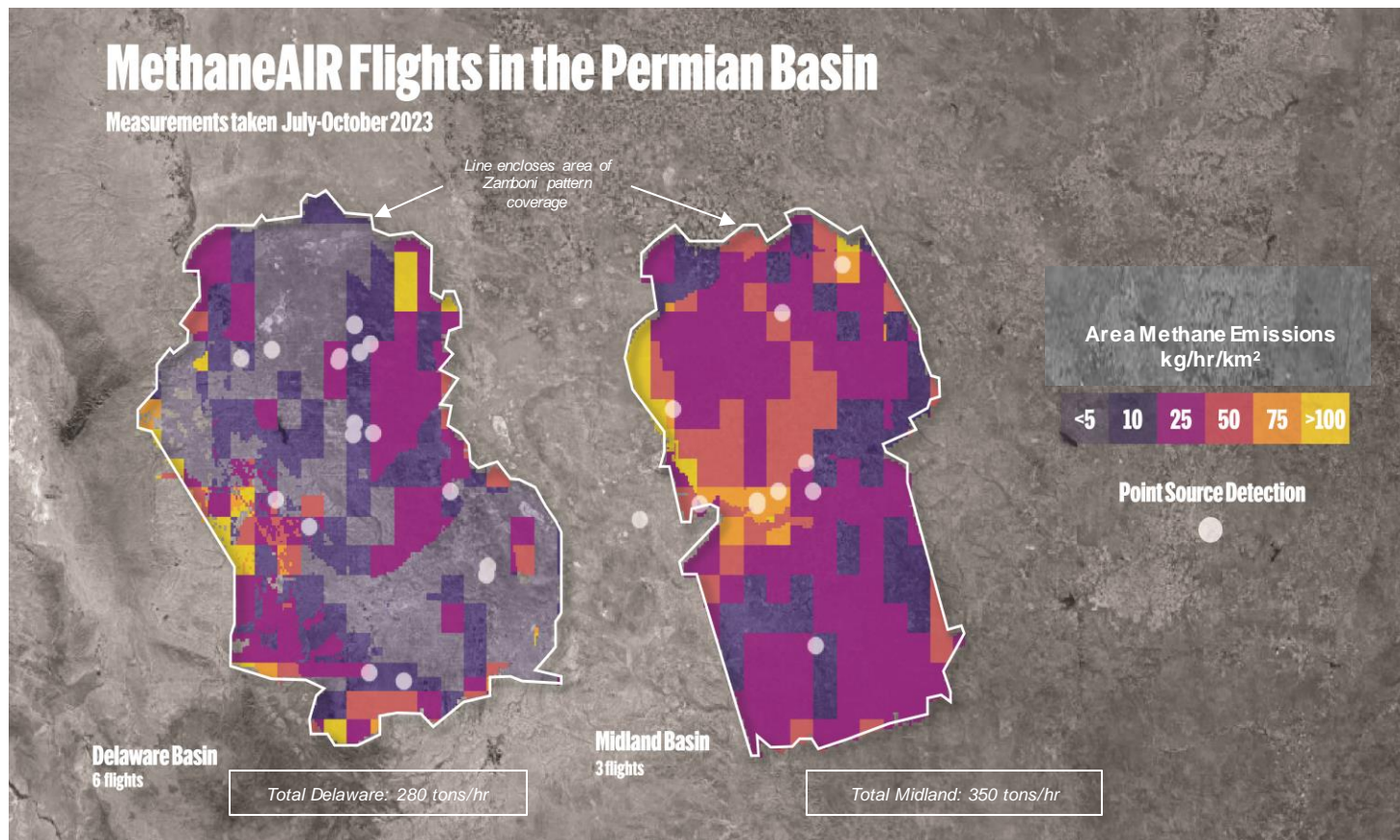
HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR  
ASTROPHYSICS  
HARVARD & SMITHSONIAN



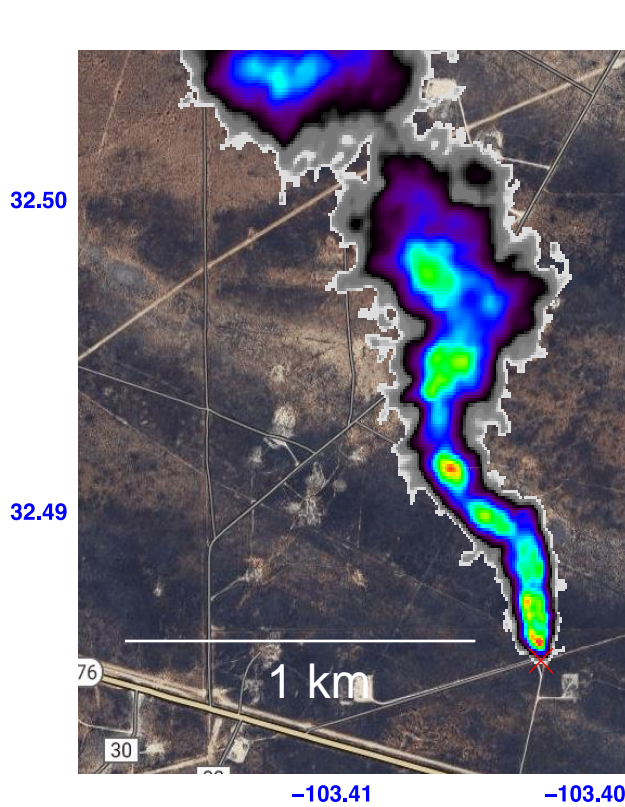
# Remote sensing can help address **two distinct data needs**

#1: Track emissions:  
**Where** they occur, how  
**large** they are, and  
how they **change** over  
time at the national  
and basin scale

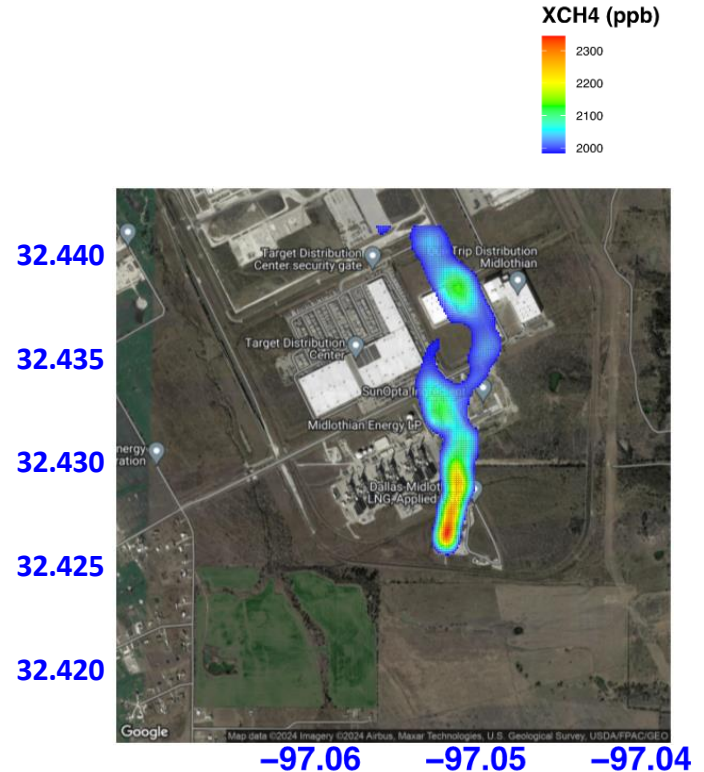


# Remote sensing can help address **two distinct data needs**

#2. Provide data on large emissions from a **specific source** to help companies and regulators find and fix leaks



Permian MX024 15000 kg/hr



Midlothian (TX) Energy 4730 kg/hr

# MethaneSAT's unique capabilities mean it will see **all emissions** and produce **accurate, policy relevant data**



## Geographic scale

- 200km<sup>2</sup> target in 30 seconds
- 95 minutes orbit time, 3-4 day revisit rate



## High precision

- 130m x 400m resolution
- 3 parts per billion



**Compare** emissions across basins



**Enable** empirically based Methane Supply Index



**Track** O&G commitments (e.g. OGDC)



**Solve** challenges of comparing top down & bottom up



# Why are total regional emissions important for fighting climate change?

Recent evidence from multiple scientific assessments indicate that smaller diffuse emission sources account for a significant component of total regional emissions, if not for the vast majority.

High-emitting point sources or super emitters **alone** do not enable effective mitigation of emissions across the O&G supply chain.

Quantitative data on total emissions and how those emissions are **spatially distributed** across wide areas are critically needed.

MethaneSAT is unique in **quantifying total regional emissions and producing spatially-resolved emissions data across O&G regions**, compared to point source detection satellites (e.g. GHGSAT, CarbonMapper) that only produce data on high-emitting point sources at the facility level.





**MethaneSAT will cover 80% of the world's O&G regions in 150 targets. Each target will be 200 km x 200 km**

**These sites are located in 48 production basins around the globe.**

## The satellite

---



Imaging spectrometer that operates in target mode and collects methane data globally

## The data platform

---



Free web-based global methane emissions data platform that processes and visualizes the satellite data



# MethaneAIR, an aerial precursor to MethaneSAT, is measuring majority of onshore O&G production regions in North America



- **The goal:** Quantify methane emission rates of 80% of onshore O&G production regions in North America.
- **The timeline:** Flights started in 2023.
- **The plane:**
  - Retired from a private operator, the modified Lear 35 is the first aircraft tasked to measure methane full-time. It is operated by iO Aerospace.
  - The plane carries the same spectrometer technology as MethaneSAT, but is flying at 40,000 ft, above most commercial traffic.
  - It carries two pilots & a technician, with flights lasting ~5 hours.

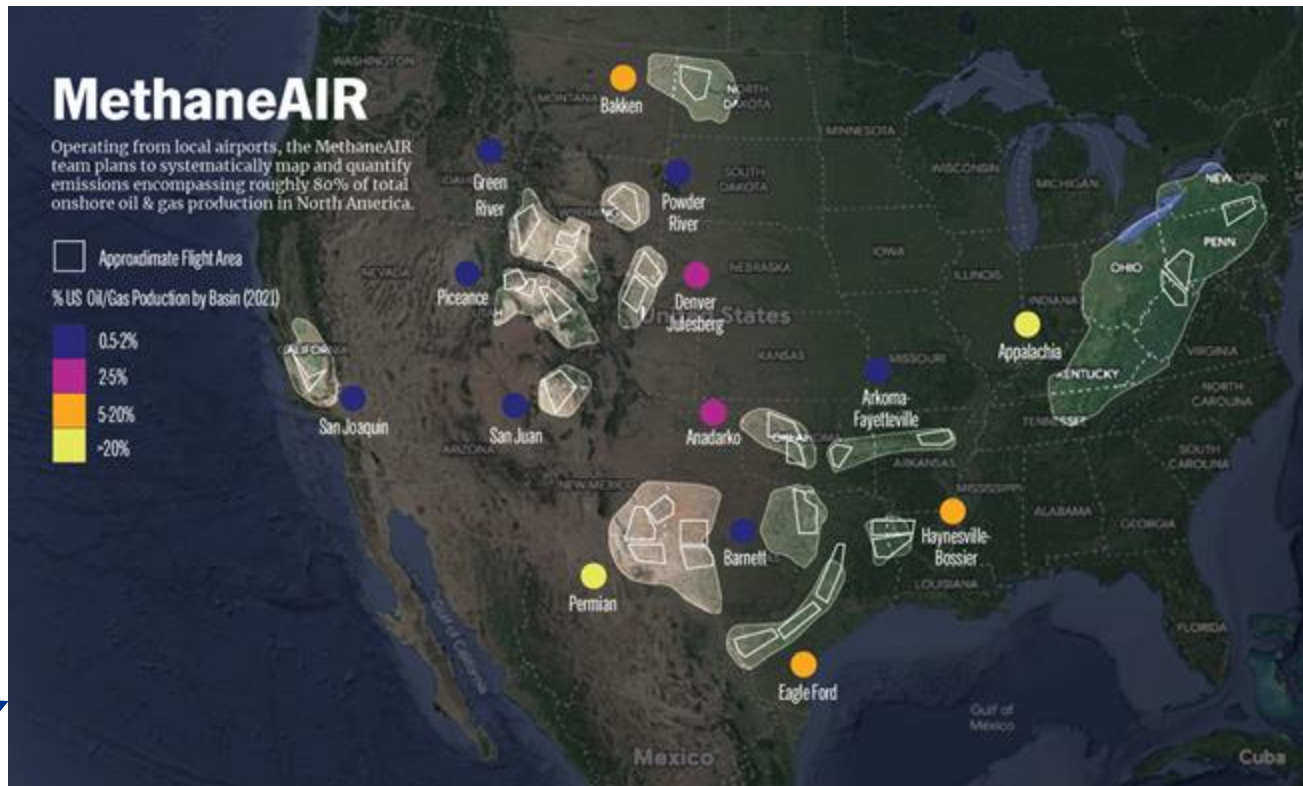
**We will be sharing this data publicly later this year.**



# MethaneAIR has already gathered data from over 80% of US O&G production

MethaneAIR has flown over:

- Eagle Ford
- Haynesville
- Bakken
- Anadarko
- Arkoma Fayetteville
- Denver
- Arkoma Woodford-Caney
- Barnett
- Uinta
- Permian
- Appalachia
- ...with more to come

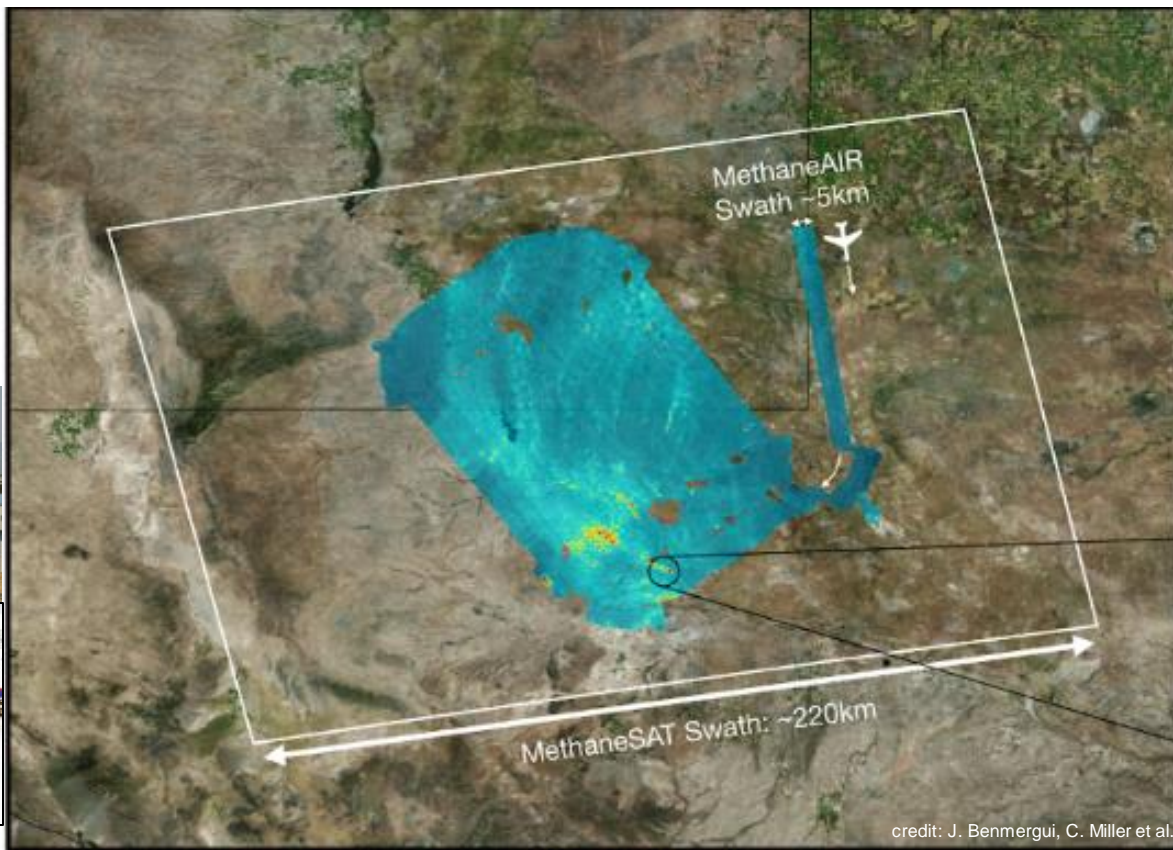


All the basins in the US that MethaneAIR will be covering

# MethaneAIR: airborne precursor to MethaneSAT

Preliminary results.  
- Confidential -

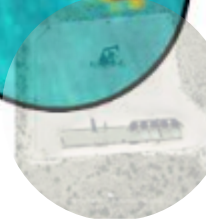
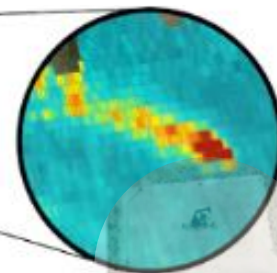
MethaneAIR flight  
RF06 over the  
Permian Basin, in  
Texas/New  
Mexico, world's  
largest oil field.



MethaneAIR flew the  
region in 2 hours.

MethaneSAT will  
scan it in 30 seconds.

Methane plumes are  
clearly visible



Leslie Von Pless

# The MethaneSAT Opportunity



## Operators

- Integrate this data with other emissions monitoring
- Prioritize where to deploy leak detection and repair efforts
- Monitor facilities that are remote, unmanned, or operated by joint venture partners

## Finance

- Manage risk associated with excess methane emissions
- Identify opportunities associated with better methane performance
- Conduct company benchmarking
- Hold companies accountable during engagements

## Regulators

- Identify regional emissions, problematic infrastructure, and estimation errors to inform regulatory requirements
- Compare data to operator reports
- Improve on existing datasets
- Track progress against emission reduction goals