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The status of the Jason 2 & 3 missions with respect to POD and the contributions of SLR.

The Jason-3 satellite was launched on January 17, 2016, to continue the time series of satellite-borne radar altimeter observations of the world's oceans from a near ten-day repeat orbit. The data from Jason-3 will continue the time series of observations acquired from this mapping orbit which was initiated by the TOPEX/Poseidon mission in 1992. The TOPEX/Poseidon and Jason series of satellite play a special role in that their altimeter data provide a climate data record which records the change in the state of the world's oceans with time. Starting with Jason-1, the data from these successive satellite missions are intercalibrated using a tandem flight period of 6-8 months duration where the new satellite and the antecedent satellite play in a tandem orbit, close together in time and space. After launch, Jason-3 was placed into a tandem flight regime with Jason-2 to intercalibrate the altimeter and other instruments on the two spacecraft. In this paper we provide an update of the precise orbit determination for the Jason-2 and Jason-3 missions, and we review the contributions of Satellite Laser Ranging to these two missions, with an emphasis on the performance during the Jason-2 and Jason-3 tandem mission period.