The ASSET project: an Overview

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ASSET (Assimilation of Envisat data; http://darc.nerc.ac.uk/asset) is a EU-funded project, whose objectives are: (1) assess the strategies for exploiting research satellite data by the Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) community, and (2) investigate the distribution and variability of atmospheric chemical species by exploiting research satellite data. To address these objectives, ASSET will assimilate Envisat observations and produce quality-controlled analyses of ozone and other species using a variety of assimilation models and techniques. This paper will provide an overview of the ASSET project, and will include information on the following highlights: the inter-comparison of ozone analyses; the assimilation of limb radiances; the assimilation of stratospheric aerosols; the assimilation of stratospheric humidity.