

# WHAT WILL THE OCEAN BE LIKE TOMORROW?

**T**he ocean's role is critical. Observing, understanding and forecasting it are all major priorities for protecting our planet. This ambition led to the founding of operational oceanography, in order to be able to describe and forecast the ocean in all its four dimensions, at any time and anywhere on the globe! The determination of six French agencies (CNES, CNRS, IFREMER, IRD, Météo France, SHOM\*) to tackle this challenge led to the creation of Mercator Ocean, a key project for the establishment of operational oceanography in Europe.

\*CNES: the French Space Agency  
IFREMER: Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea  
IRD: Institute of Research for Development  
SHOM: French Marine Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service  
CNRS: National Centre for Scientific Research

