

Possible cancellation of Tokyo Olympic Games, Japan

Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on 30 April 2015 from 08:41:17 to 08:41:42 UTC
Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 05 December 2015 at 01:37:12 UTC
Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 09 September 2020 at 01:27:01 UTC
Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 23 December 2020 at 01:30:49 UTC
Sentinel-1 CSAR IW acquired on 10 January 2021 from 08:41:15 to 08:41:40 UTC

Author(s): Sentinel Vision team, VisioTerra, France - svp@visioterra.fr

Keyword(s): Urban, infrastructure, health, sport event, Japan

[2D Layerstack](#)

Fig. 1 - S2 (09.09.2020) - Tokyo was supposed to host the 2020 summer Olympic Games.

[2D view](#)



Fig. 2 - S1 (10.01.2021) - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it decided to report to summer 2021.

[2D view](#)

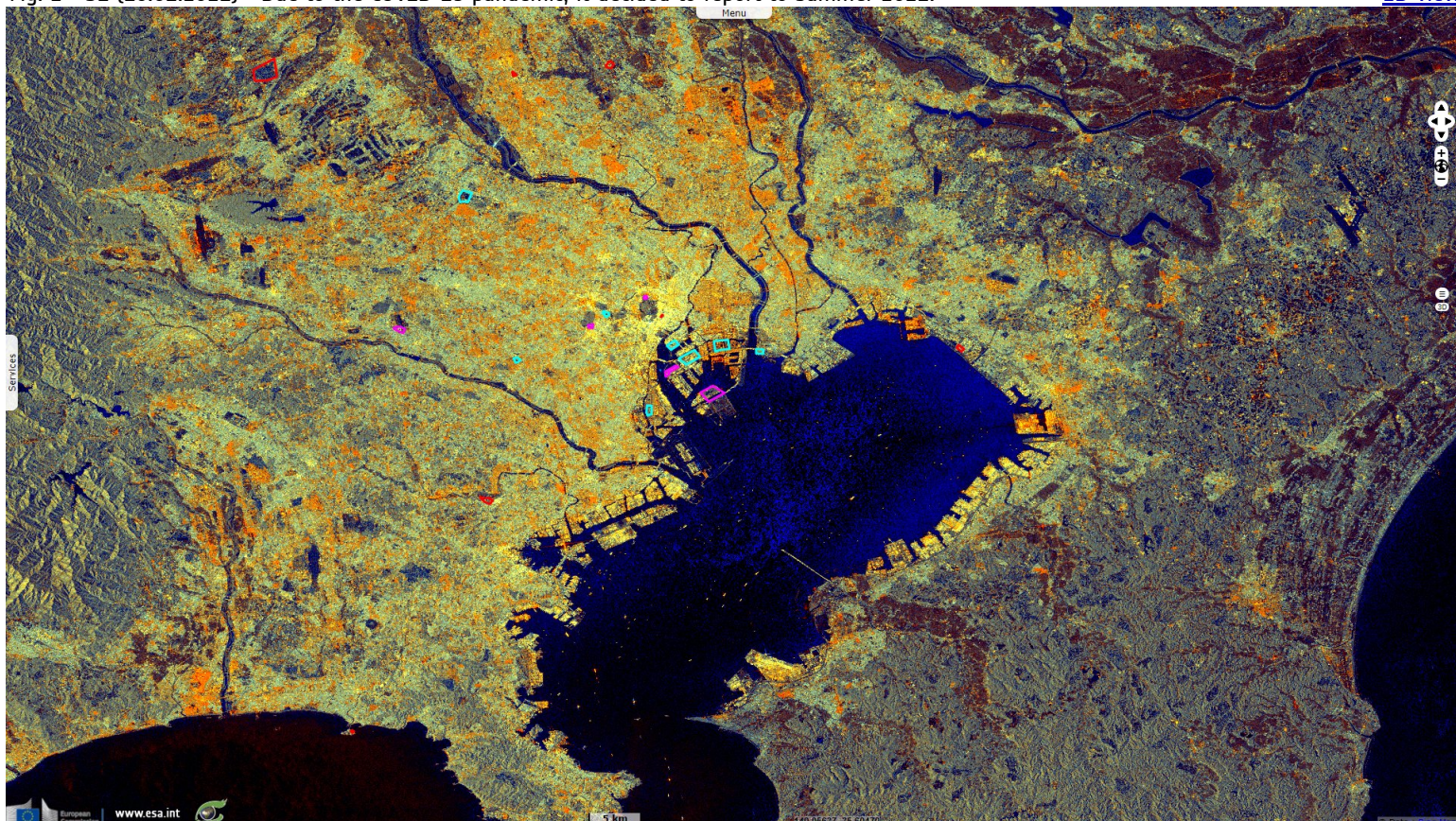
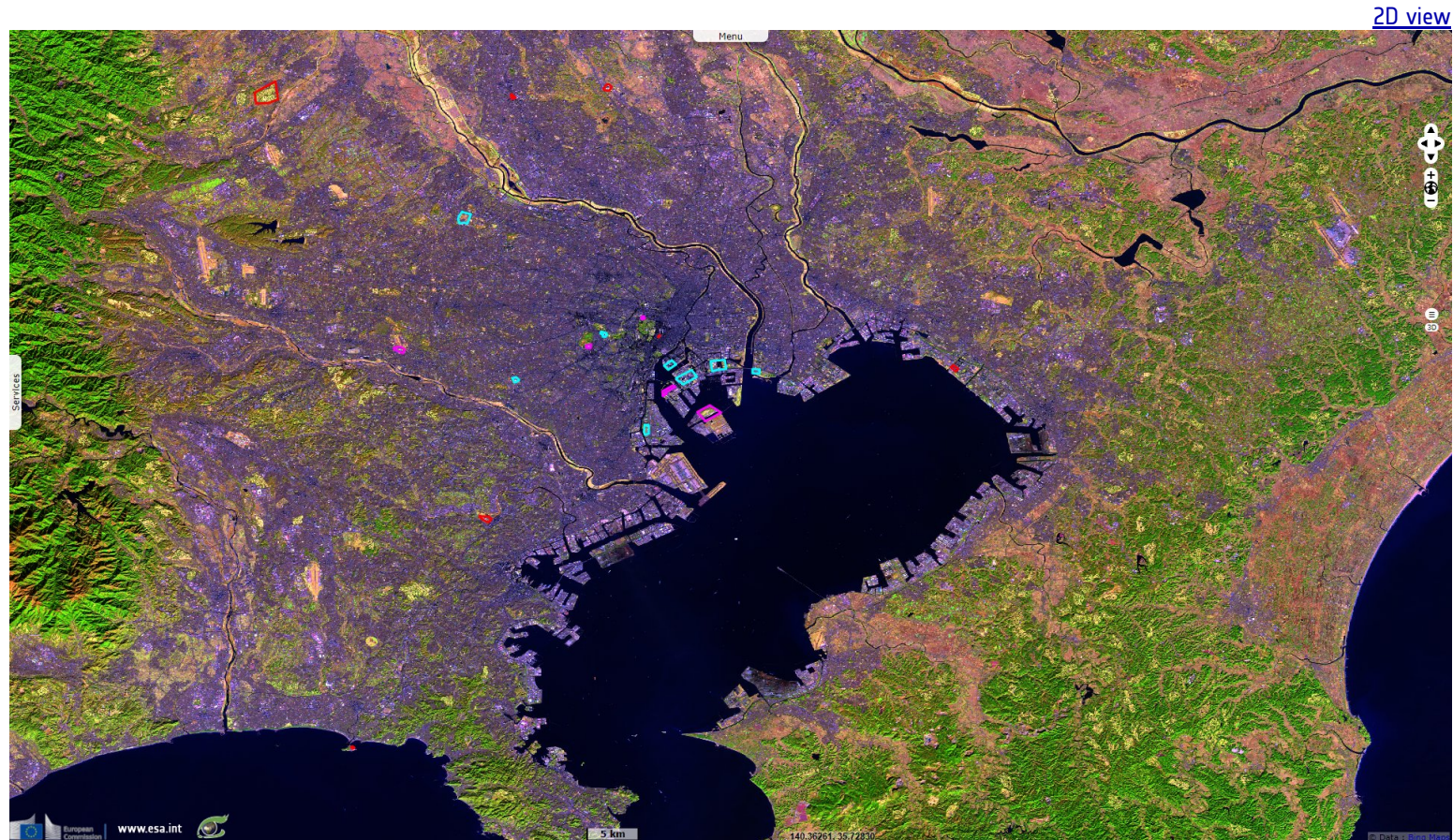


Fig. 3 - S2 (23.12.2020) - Despite brand new infrastrucres (cyan) and important developments in existing ones (magenta), the Tokyo Olympics could be cancelled.



Tokyo has been preparing to host summer Olympics 2020 for several years, building new infrastructures if needed. Regarding the geographic distribution of the venues, Chris Rowthorn, guide for Tokyo and long-time Japan resident [wrote](#) "Most of the Tokyo Summer Olympic events will be held in Tokyo itself. The venues are divided into two zones: Heritage Zone and Tokyo Bay Zone. Heritage Zone venues are in central Tokyo, within the Yamanote Loop Line, while most Tokyo Bay Zone Venues are on Odaiba, an artificial island in Tokyo Bay. A few football matches will be held at stadiums in other parts of Japan, like Sendai City." All sailing and a part of the cycling events will be held a bit further south west.

Fig. 4 - S2 (23.12.2020) - An Olympic stadium has been built within the city amid vegetated areas. Venues that required minor developments show in red.



Japan's first participation at Olympic games was in July 1912 at the 5th Olympic Games in Stockholm. Japan held the summer Olympic games in Tokyo in 1964 and the winter Olympic games in Sapporo in 1972 and in Nagano in 1998. The 2020 Summer Games are scheduled to be held in Tokyo in 2021.

Fig. 5 - S1 (10.01.2021) - Many infrastructures built for the occasion are located on the artificial islands at north of the bay.

[2D animation](#)

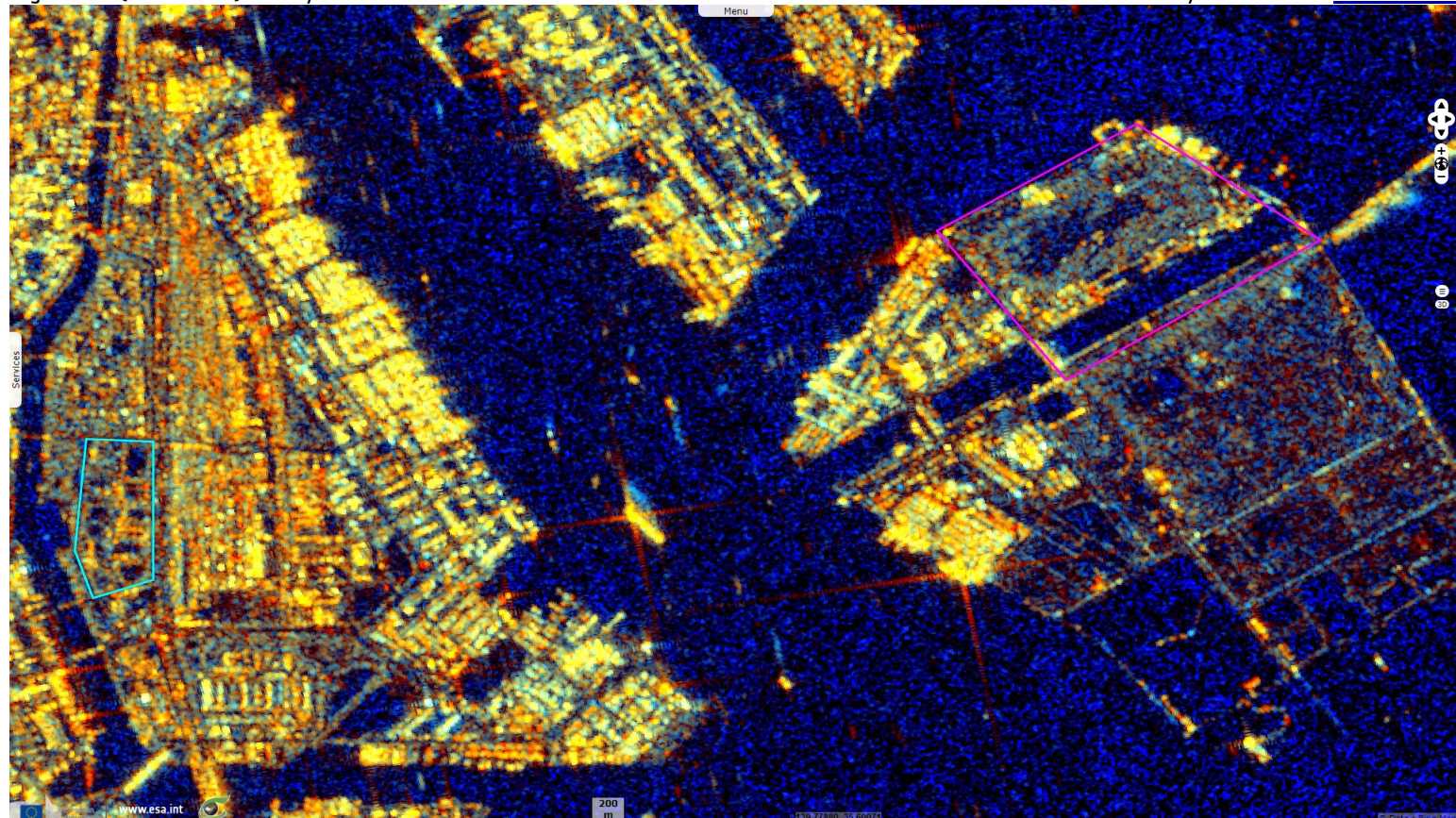
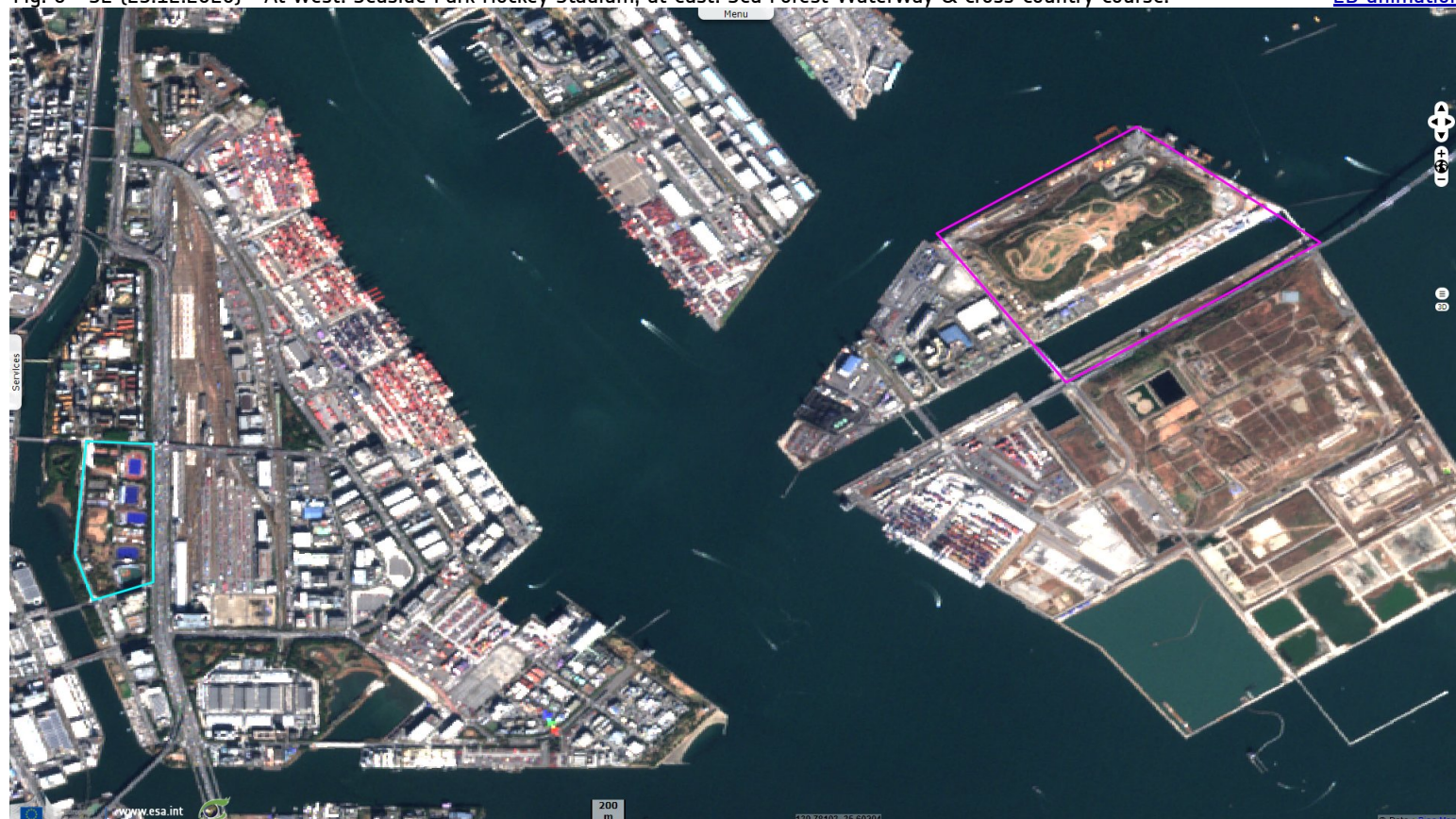


Fig. 6 - S2 (23.12.2020) - At west: Seaside Park Hockey Stadium; at east: Sea Forest Waterway & Cross-Country Course.

[2D animation](#)



However, Ramy Inocencio [reported](#) for the US media CBS News that rumours of cancellation are spreading: "Exactly six months from the scheduled start of the Tokyo Summer Olympics, Japan's government was vehemently denying reports on Friday that it had privately accepted the Games were doomed. A Thursday article by The Times of London, claiming officials had privately conceded that the already-rescheduled Olympics would have to be scrapped due to the pandemic, drew a sharp rebuttal from Tokyo."

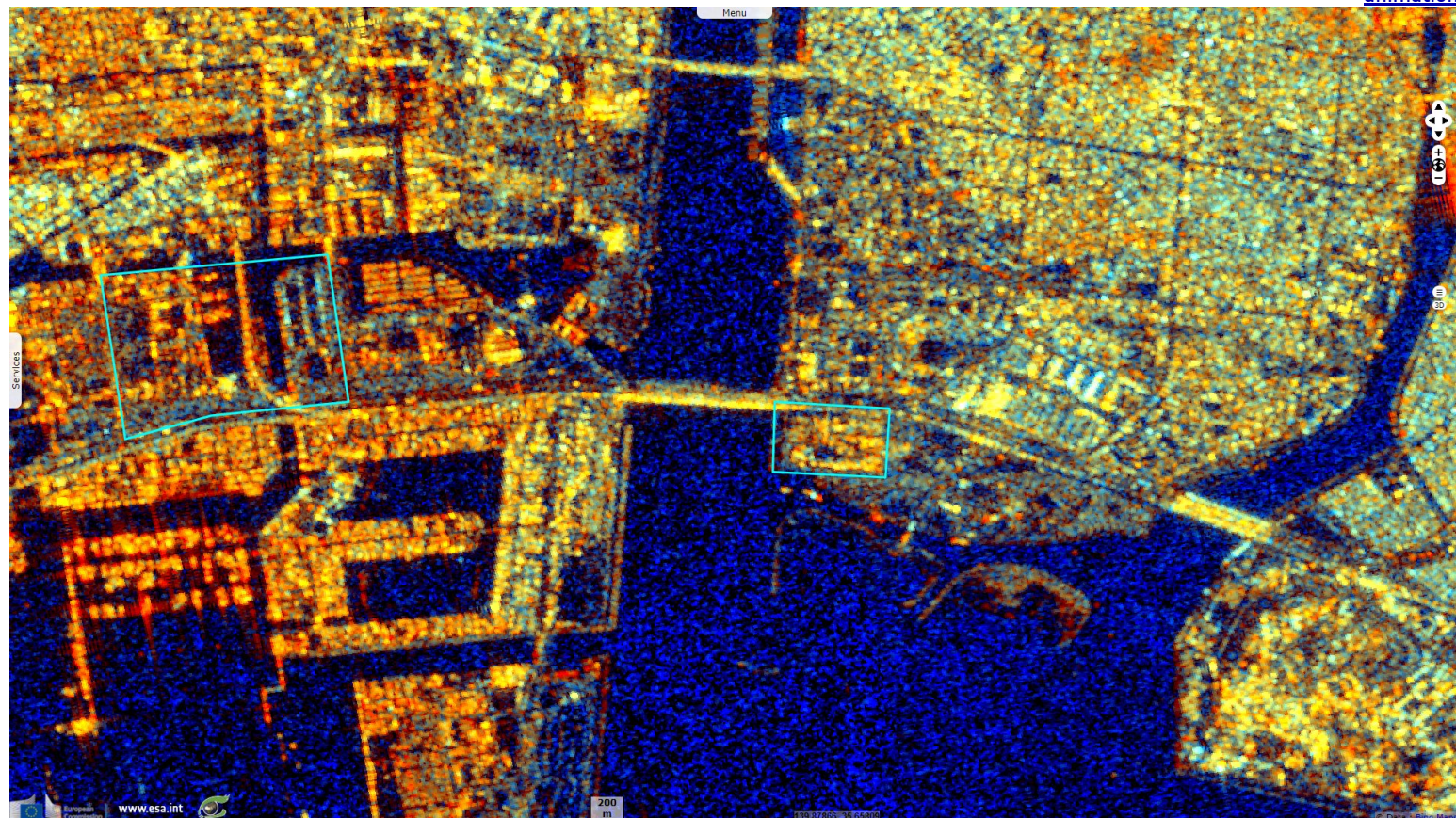
Fig. 7 - S2 (23.12.2020) - At centre, an artificial basin has been built to allow slalom Canoe-Kayak events.

[2D animation](#)



"Originally set for summer 2020, the games were postponed in March last year as the first wave of coronavirus infections swept across the globe. But with COVID-19 cases on the rise in Japan and elsewhere, many remain deeply skeptical that the Summer Games can be pulled off. Now, as Japan grapples with its third wave of the pandemic, public support for the games is at an all-time low in the country, with many people calling for the event to be cancelled outright."

Fig. 8 - S1 (10.01.2021) - The Olympic Aquatics Centre, Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center & Dream Island Archery Field show at west. [2D animation](#)



"About 60 million people — including Tokyo and about half of the country — are currently under a month-long state of emergency, set to last at least until February 7. The country is recording more new cases on a daily basis than it was 10 months ago, when the Olympics were first postponed."

Fig. 9 - S1 (10.01.2021) - At NW, the Olympic Village, at SW, Shiokaze Park & Odaiba Marine Park.

[2D animation](#)

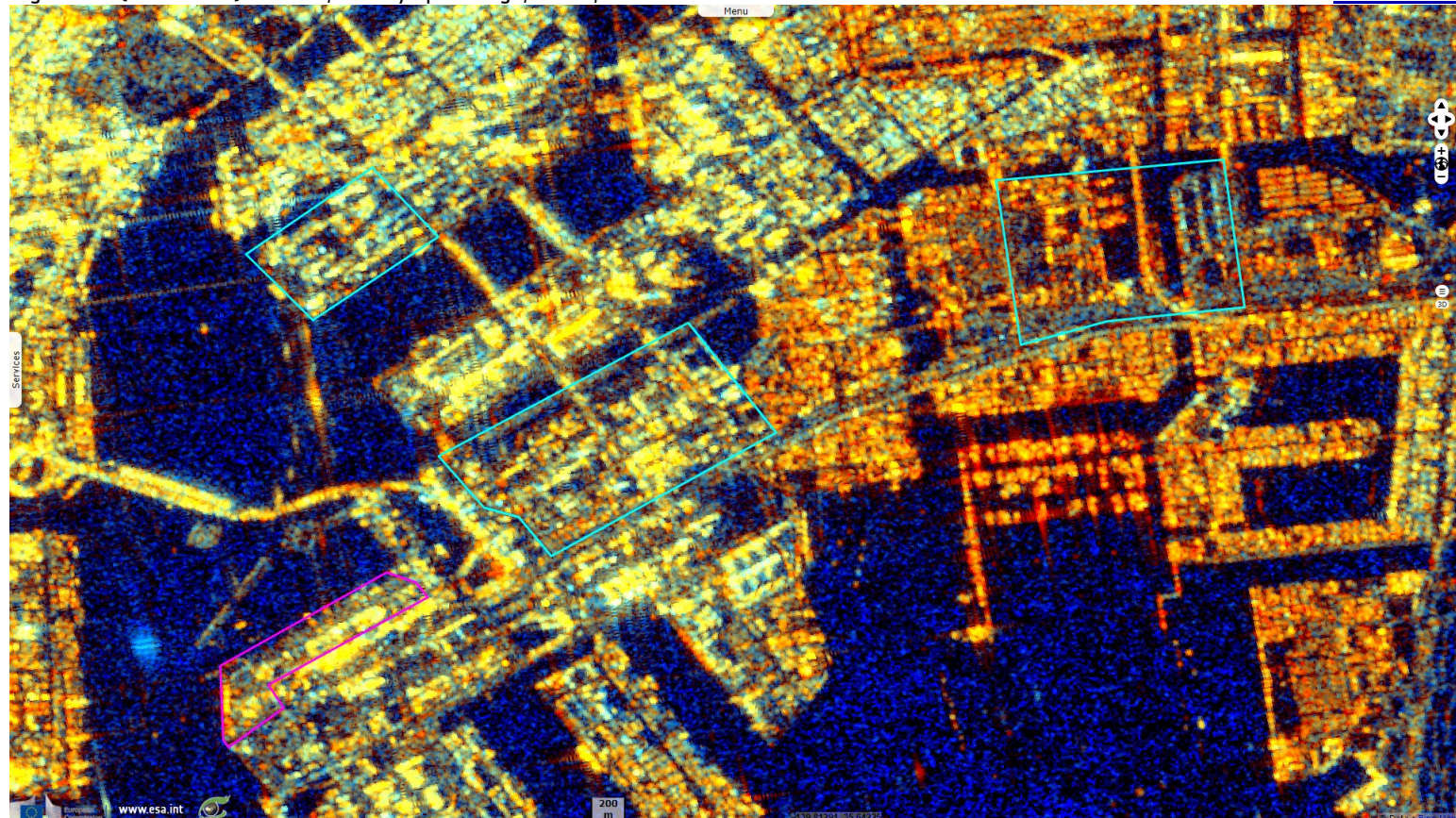
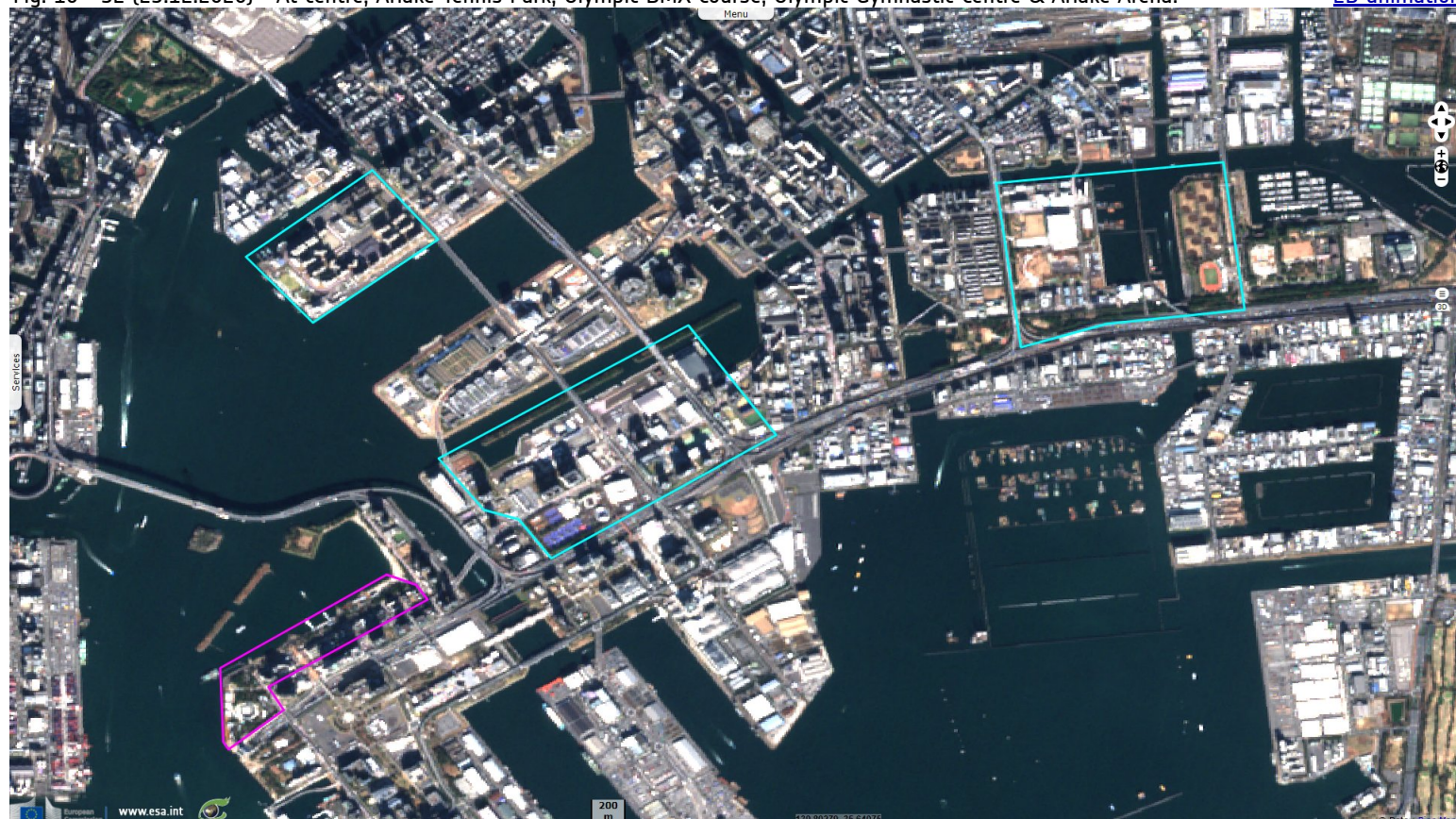


Fig. 10 - S2 (23.12.2020) - At centre, Ariake Tennis Park, Olympic BMX Course, Olympic Gymnastic Centre & Ariake Arena.

[2D animation](#)



Rafa Payá, journalist for Diario AS, a Spanish daily newspaper devoted to sport [added](#) for the English version of the site: "If the reports are true, there will be no Olympic Games between Rio 2016 and Paris 2024. After that, in 2028, Los Angeles will have its turn and then, if all goes to plan, it will be Tokyo's time to shine. According to the Times' source, a senior member of the government, the decision is close to being definitive, and although nobody wants to be the first to make the announcement, the consensus is that holding the Games is going to prove too difficult. The source said they 'personally' did not think the Games would be staged this year."

Fig. 11 - S2 (23.12.2020) - New buildings have been added to Baji Koen, dedicated to equestrian sports (dressage, jumping, eventing). [2D animation](#)

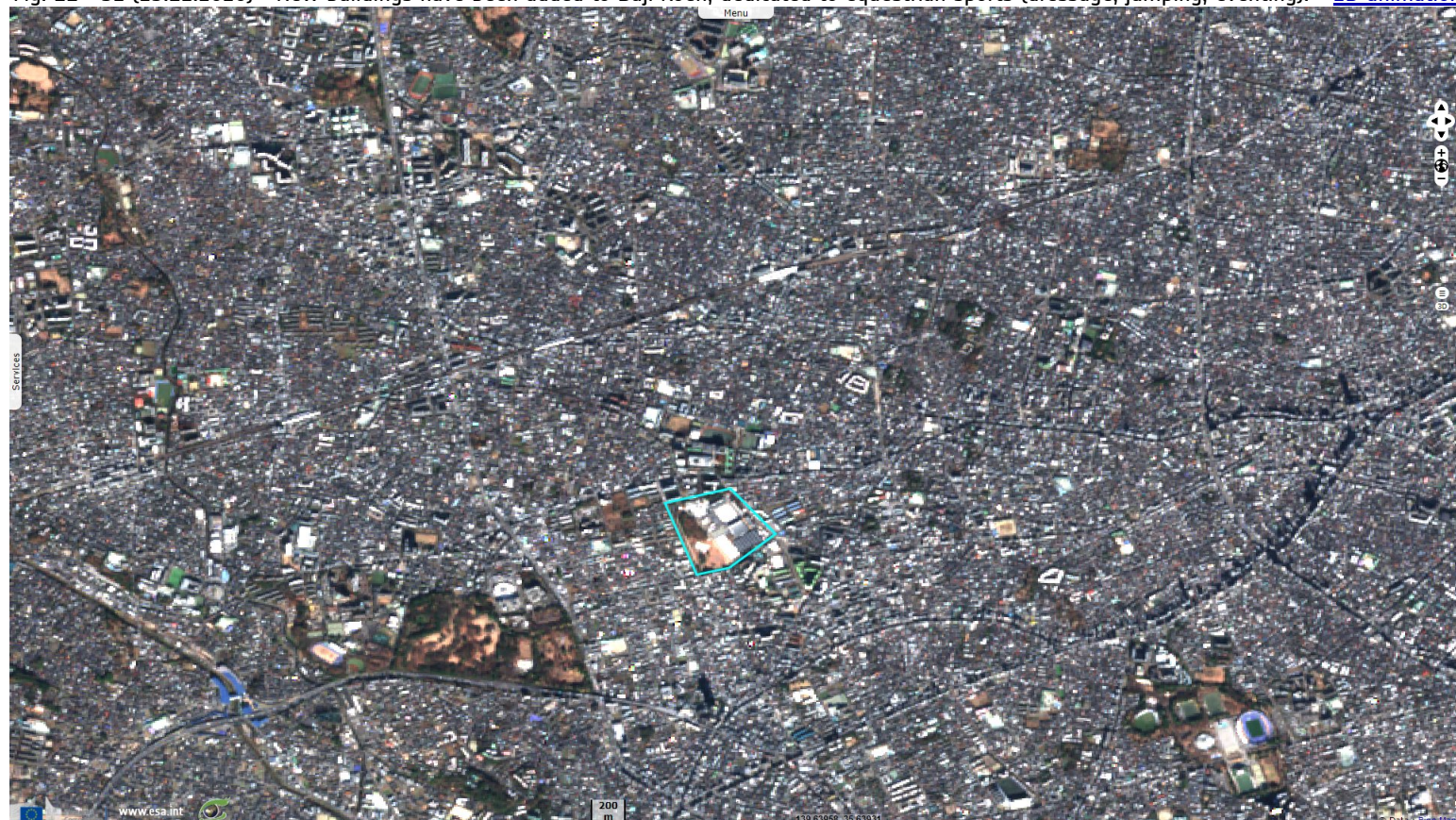
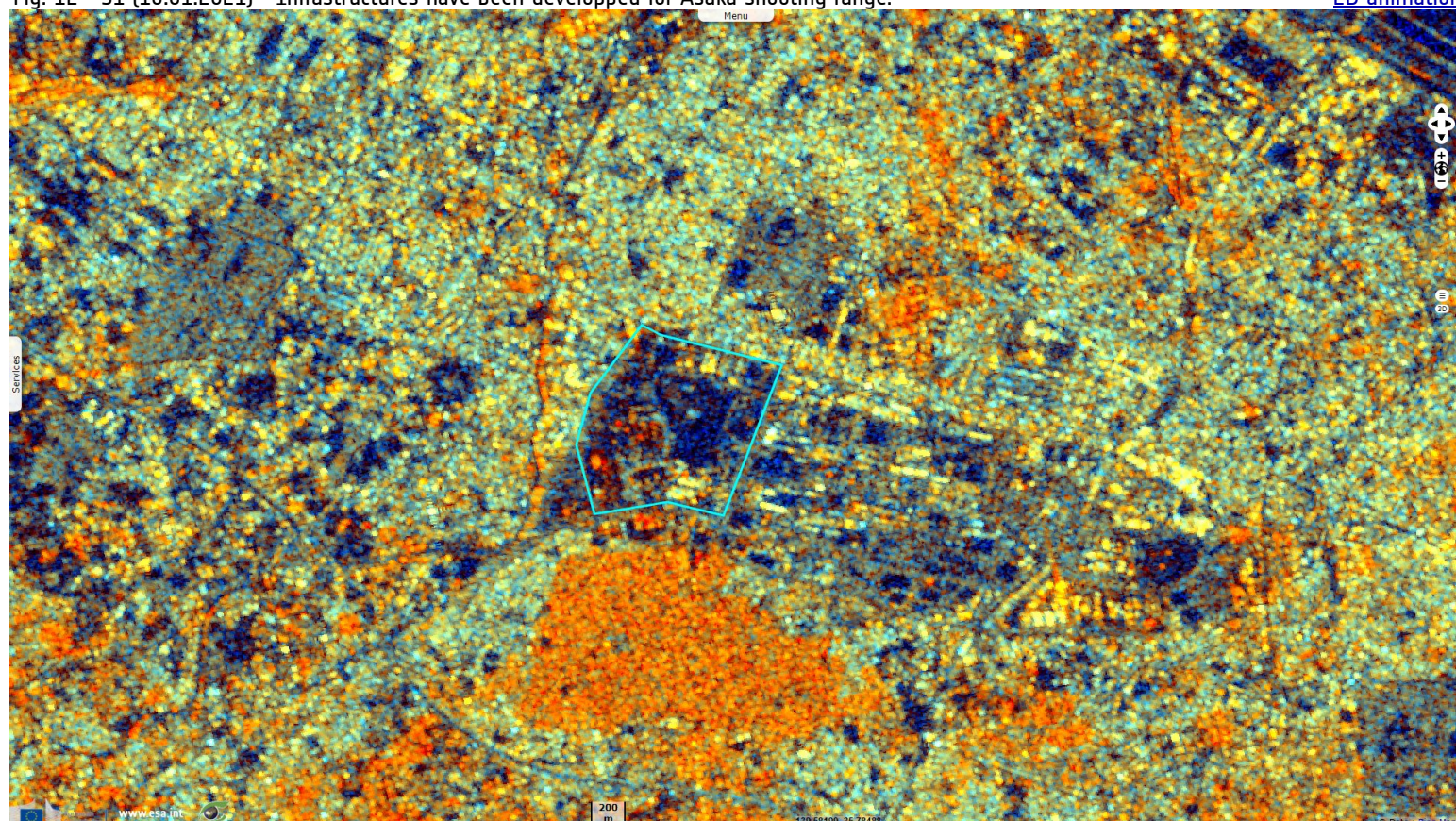


Fig. 12 - S1 (10.01.2021) - Infrastructures have been developed for Asaka shooting range. [2D animation](#)



*The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Space Agency or the European Union.
Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data 2021, processed by VisioTerra.*

More on European Commission space:						
More on ESA:				S-1 website	S-2 website	S-3 website
More on Copernicus program:				SciHub portal	Cophub portal	Inthub portal
More on VisioTerra:				Sentinel Vision Portal	Envisat+ERS portal	Swarm+GOCE portal
					CryoSat portal	