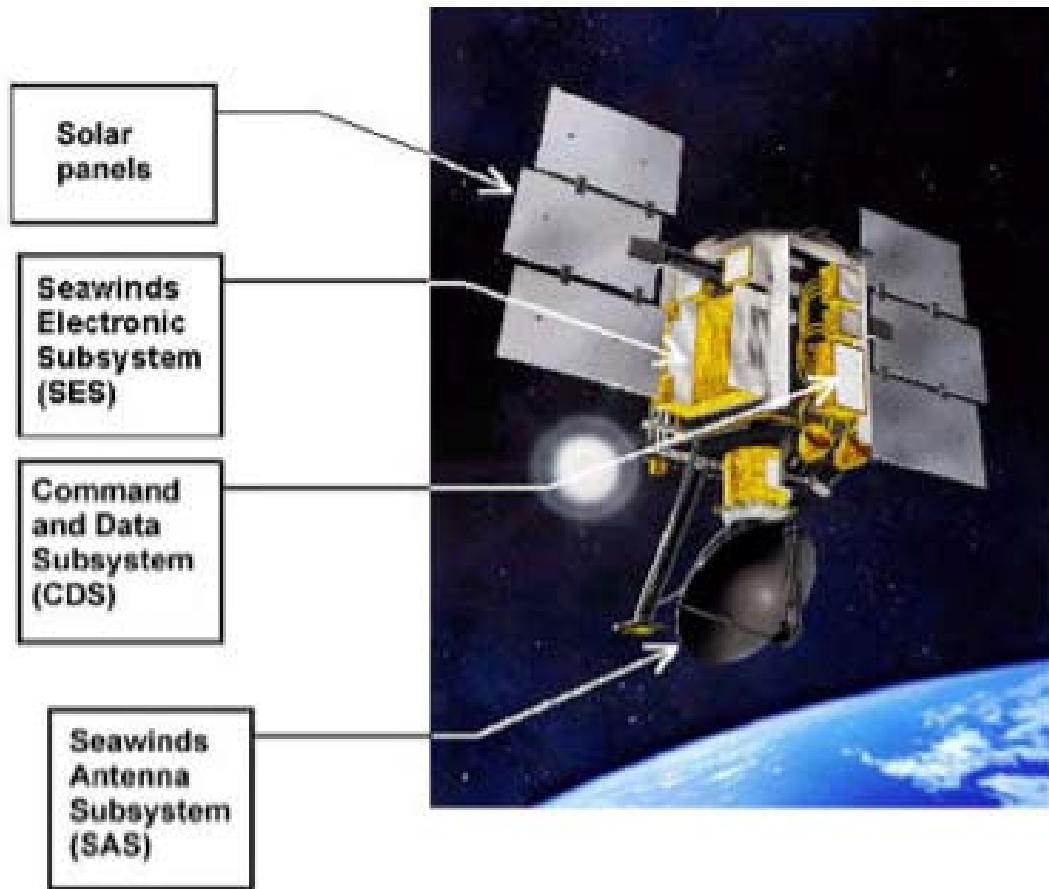


### QuikSCAT SeaWinds Scatterometer



The SeaWinds instrument is made up of three main components, known as subsystems:

- The Electronic Subsystem creates the radar signal that is sent to the antenna, which then beams it down to the Earth's surface.
- The Antenna Subsystem receives the return signal, or backscatter.
- The Command and Data Subsystem contains the computer that controls the scatterometer instrument. It supplies engineering telemetry (e.g. temperatures and operating voltages and currents) and science data (backscatter measurements) to the spacecraft, which then transmits the data to ground stations. The CDS also receives commands from the spacecraft.

Everything in the scatterometer instrument except the actual rotating antenna dish is redundant, meaning there are duplicate parts in case one fails.