

Citation for the 2018 RAS Group Achievement Award: The Centre for Observation and Modelling of Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Tectonics (COMET)

The 2018 Group Achievement Award for achievement by a large consortium in geophysics is awarded to COMET.

The Centre for Observation and Modelling of Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Tectonics (COMET) receives this year's "G" Group Award for its consistently high standard of insight into dangerous movements of the Earth's crust. It has exploited the revolution in satellite geodesy that allows position and changes in position to be measured accurately and frequently, as well as repeated detailed imaging of the Earth's surface.

Its members have revolutionised our understanding of crustal processes - magma and ground fluid movement connected with volcanism, and buckling of the crust before, during and after earthquakes - and have received awards for work on the faults causing disasters such as the Bam (Iran, 2003) and Gorkha (Nepal, 2015) earthquakes, and the swelling and eruption of volcanoes worldwide including in Montserrat, Chile and Iceland.

For these reasons, COMET is awarded the Royal Astronomical Society's Group Award.