

The Downlink

A twice-yearly publication with news and updates from the NOAA Satellite and Information Service's International and Interagency Affairs Division

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF EARTH OBSERVATIONS THROUGH GEO

THIS JANUARY, THE GROUP ON EARTH Observations (GEO) received unanimous approval to extend its charter for another decade. With NOAA's leadership, including IIAD's Yana Gevorgyan and Brent Smith, and that of our global partners, GEO is developing a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). GEOSS integrates thousands of individual observations from its members to better understand our planet. Policymakers, scientists, practitioners, and others are using observational information to solve problems across a range of societal benefit areas including climate, weather, water, health, energy, oceans and coasts, agriculture, disaster management, and ecosystems.

GEO is comprised of 90 governments and 77 participating organizations with NOAA's

Administrator, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, serving as one of GEO's co-chairs. One of GEO's most important accomplishments has been pioneering international acceptance of full and open data policies, enshrined in the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. As no one nation can effectively monitor the entire Earth, NOAA and its partners in GEO have made great strides in realizing the full potential of Earth observation.

GEO also helps ensure that all nations benefit from Earth observation data. Examples include more reliable weather forecasts in Brazil, improved productivity of once-degraded soil in Kenya, and access to clean water in India. During the events of the GEO Ministerial Summit, NOAA showcased its efforts to develop a cholera early warning system, monitor global crop productivity and ocean acidification, and make new data sources available worldwide.



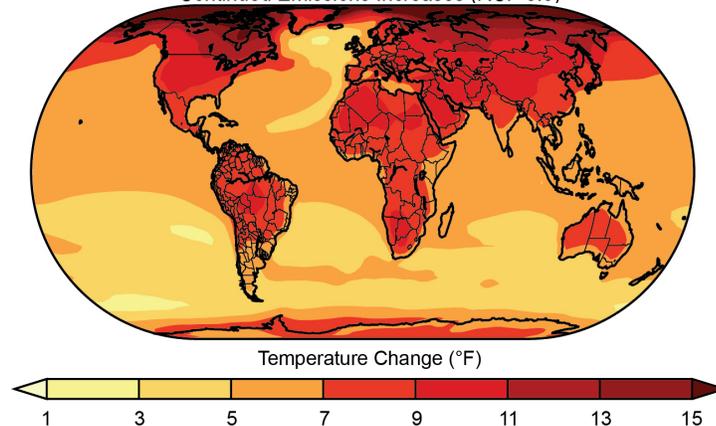
Over the next 10 years, GEO will continue to pursue broader data access, interoperability, more efficient sharing, and effective application of data to decisions. GEO will increasingly function as a knowledge broker for Earth observation and information that will be used by diverse stakeholders, from policy leaders, to private sector, to citizens, as critical means to evidence-based decision making.

BUDGET UPDATE

CURRENT FUNDING: In January, Congress passed a budget for this fiscal year (ends Sept. 30, 2014); "sequestration" is not in effect. NOAA received full funding for JPSS and GOES-R, and for the first time, received funds for the COSMIC-2 ground system. Funding to support the launch of A-DCS, SARSAT, and TSIS was not approved this year. Jason-3 funding was short of the request, but NOAA received reprogramming approval for additional necessary FY2014 funds in June.

FUTURE FUNDING: In March, President Obama announced his FY2015 budget request. The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee approved its FY2015 proposal on May 8, and the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version on June 5. Both Committees and the White House must negotiate a final funding bill for FY2015, which begins on Oct. 1, 2014.

Continued Emissions Increases (RCP 8.5)



DATA STREAMS

For the National Climate Assessment, NOAA's National Climatic Data Center used climate models to predict the change in average annual temperature over the period 2071-2099 (compared to 1970-1999), assuming continued increases in GHG emissions.

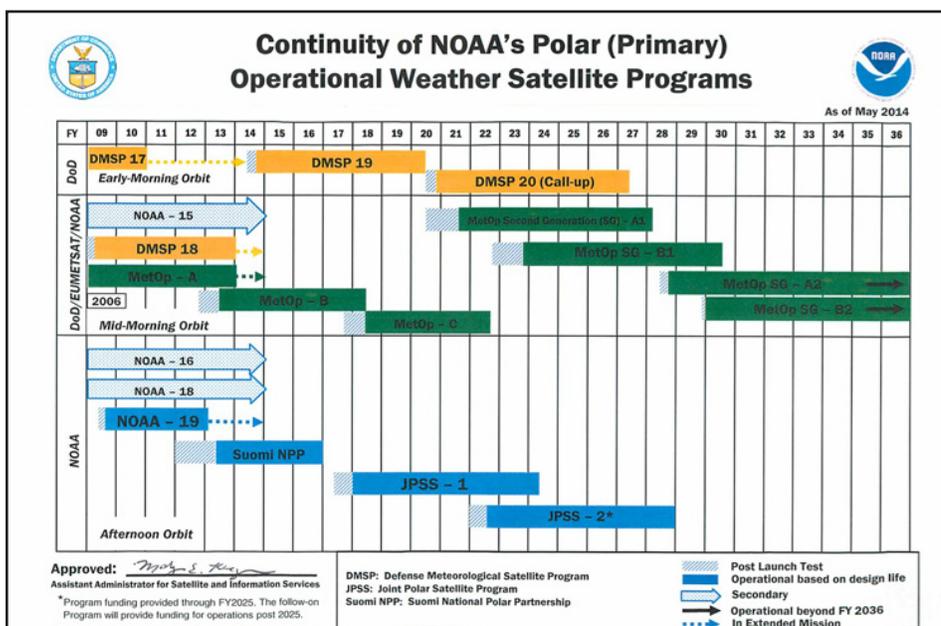
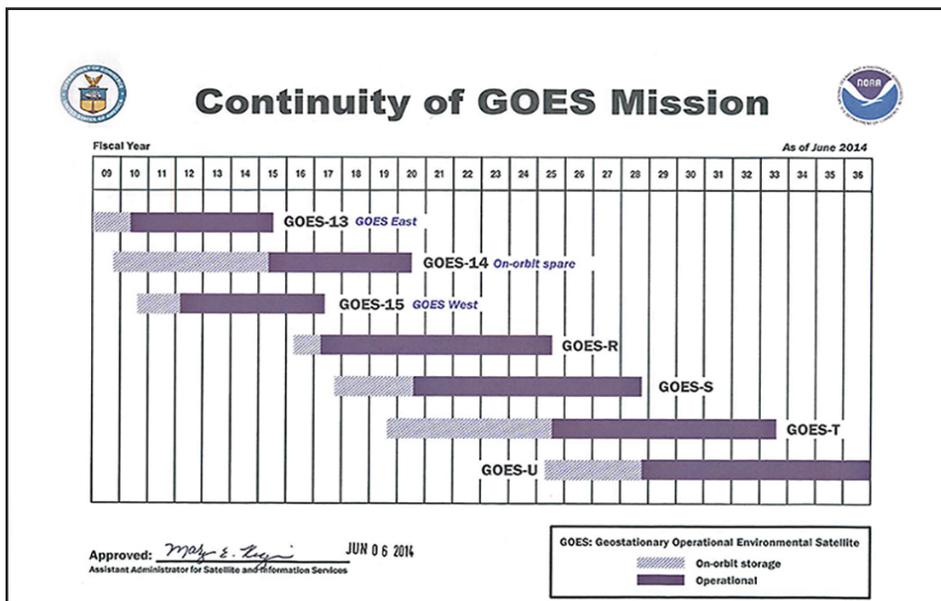
INSIDE IIAD

For more on our personnel, visit www.nesdisia.noaa.gov

Jacob Sutherlun Jacob Sutherlun left NOAA to care for his family in Texas and accepted a position in the private sector.

Kate Becker is on a six-month detail to the Office of Management and Budget.

Mary Ann Kutny recently joined IIAD for a six-month detail from NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.



CURRENT OPERATIONS: CHANGES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRODUCT, DISTRIBUTION, AND ACCESS (PDA): NESDIS will replace the Data Distribution Server (DDS) system for data access in early 2016. The new PDA system will allow users to customize the data they receive, which will be increasingly important considering the very large amounts of data produced by our upcoming satellites. We will provide more information about this transition throughout 2015, including at our NOAA Satellite Users Conference in April 2015.

SUOMI NPP: NOAA declared Suomi NPP its primary polar-orbiting satellite on May 1. Its data are now used operationally in numerical weather prediction models by NOAA, European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasting, and other national centers, many of whom reported significant positive forecast impacts.

Recently, VIIRS polar winds became available to key operational users and will soon be on GTS. Near real-time CrIS and ATMS data are available via GTS and EUMETCast from EUMETSAT. Upcoming infrastructure improvements will enable delivery of larger data volumes, such as other VIIRS data, to a greater community of users. Archived data are generally available 6-24 hours after observation via CLASS and CLASS ftp.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: PLANNING UPDATE

GOES-R www.goes-r.gov

Geostationary satellite
 Key Instruments: ABI, GLM, EXIS, SUVI, SEISS, MAG
 Expected Launch: Early 2016
 Status: ABI, EXIS, SEISS, and SUVI instruments delivered for integration with the spacecraft and EXIS and SUVI are installed. Spacecraft propulsion and system modules were delivered and the Ground Segment Enterprise Infrastructure was completed.

JPSS-1 www.jpss.noaa.gov

Polar-orbiting satellite
 Key Instruments: VIIRS, CrIS, ATMS, OMPS, CERES
 Expected Launch: Jan./Mar. 2017
 Status: Spacecraft is being assembled in preparation for integration later this year. CERES and OMPS completed pre-shipment reviews and VIIRS, ATMS, and CrIS are undergoing testing.

JASON-3

Ocean surface topography mission
 Key Instruments: radar altimeter and advanced microwave radiometer
 Expected Launch: Mar. 2015
 Status: Radar altimeter has been installed on spacecraft. Final satellite performance testing in Sept.
 Partners: EUMETSAT, CNES, NASA

DSCOVR

Space weather mission
 Key Instruments: faraday cup, fluxgate magnetometer
 Expected Launch: Jan. 2015
 Status: Completed environmental testing in May.
 Partner: NASA, U.S. Air Force

COSMIC-2

Radio occultation mission
 Key Instrument: TGRS
 Constellation: 6 equatorial satellites & 6 polar satellites (12 total)
 Expected Launch: 2016 & 2018
 Status: Work on the set of 6 equatorial satellites is proceeding well: spacecraft completed critical design review and TGRS flight unit #1 was shipped to spacecraft contractor.
 Partners: Taiwan, U.S. Air Force

For near-real-time access to satellite data, contact the Office of Satellite and Product Operations: www.ospo.noaa.gov. For access to archived data, visit CLASS, our online data stewardship system: www.class.noaa.gov.