the Downlink

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

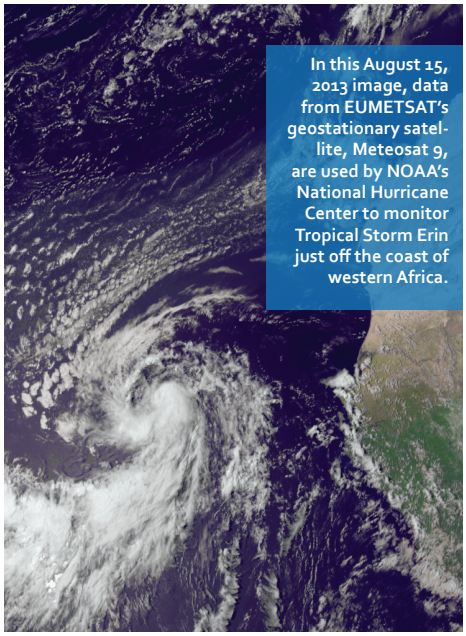
NOAA & EUMETSAT COMPLETE LONG-TERM COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BUILDING ON A 30-YEAR RELATIONSHIP, NOAA and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) marked two milestones this summer with the publishing of a major report on the benefits of their cooperation and the signing of a long-term international agreement. The report, published this September by the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), highlights the significant benefits and cost savings produced by this partnership, including:

- Operating a joint polar satellite system, where EUMETSAT's Metop satellites fly in the mid-morning orbit, while NOAA's polar satellites and Suomi NPP fly in the afternoon orbit. Both agencies share the data, which form the backbone of all medium range weather forecasts in the United States and Europe.
- Exchanging data from geostationary environmental satellites, which are critical to short-term weather forecasting and severe weather warnings, and providing a back-up capability should either agency's satellites experience trouble.
- Together with NASA and CNES, operating the joint Jason-2 ocean surface topography mission that has been crucial to improvements in weather modeling and tropical storm intensification forecasting.

The report concluded that the partnership "has enabled their user communities to benefit from more data products, increased accuracy and a better timeliness and robustness of the observing systems, all at a lower cost."

And in August, acting NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan and EUMETSAT Director-General Alain Ratier signed a new long-term cooperation agreement that provides a policy framework to guide the future evolution of the partnership. With this step, both agencies committed to ensuring that this critical, effective collaboration continues well into the future.

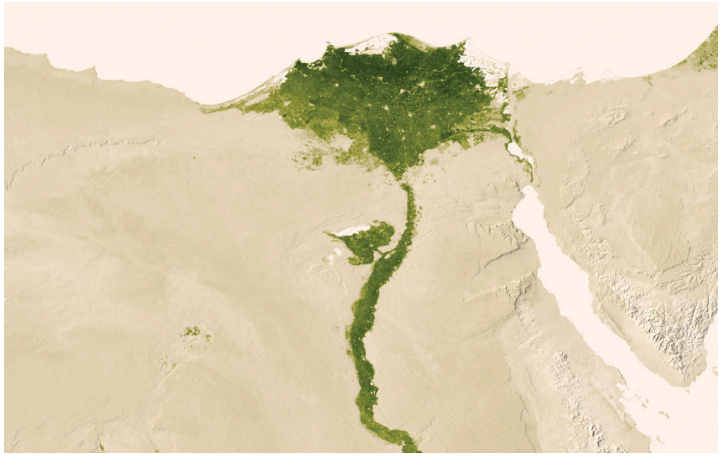


In this August 15, 2013 image, data from EUMETSAT's geostationary satellite, Meteosat 9, are used by NOAA's National Hurricane Center to monitor Tropical Storm Erin just off the coast of western Africa.

BUDGET UPDATE

CURRENT FUNDING: On October 16, 2013, the U.S. Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through January 15, 2014. Under a CR, all programs, including NOAA satellites, are provided the same funding levels received last year and no new programs are started. JPSS and GOES-R received special exemptions, allowing NOAA to reallocate its funds to maintain their expected launch dates. Budget cuts associated with "sequestration" remain in effect. The U.S. Congress and President are beginning negotiations on a budget for the rest of Fiscal Year 2014 (through September 2014).

FUTURE FUNDING: President Obama will likely announce his Fiscal Year 2015 budget request in February 2014, which if passed by Congress, would fund government programs beginning in October 2014.



DATA STREAMS

GREEN PLANET

Amidst the deserts of Egypt, the Nile River provides life-sustaining water to the region. NOAA scientists used Suomi NPP's VIIRS sensor to create a highly detailed, global vegetation index, available on NOAA's website.

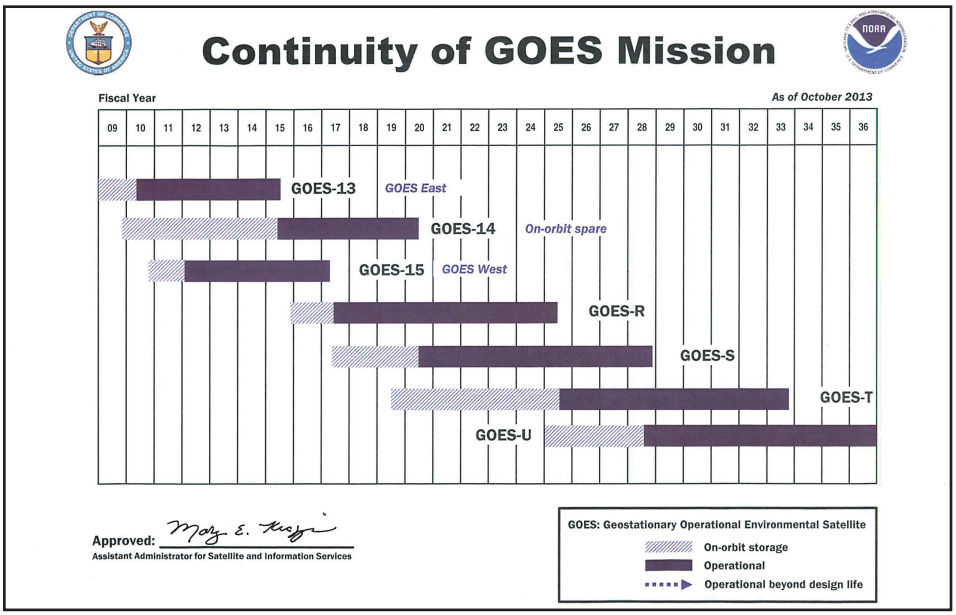
INSIDE IIAD

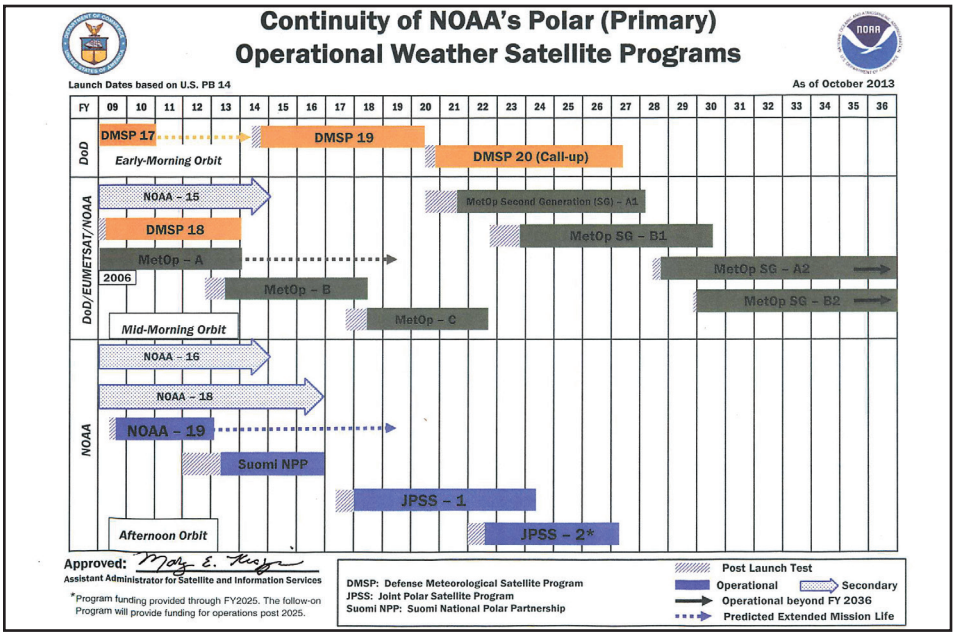
For more on our personnel, visit www.nesdisia.noaa.gov

Michelle Hertzfeld *left NOAA to work as a Presidential Innovation Fellow at the Department of the Interior.*

Michael Mineiro *left NOAA to work on space policy at the Science and Technology Policy Institute.*

Patrick O'Brien *has completed serving in Afghanistan and will return to NOAA in January 2014.*





Current Operations: Changes & Announcements

Jason-2: A NOAA-NASA-EUMETSAT-CNES ocean surface topography mission, Jason-2 continues to provide valuable data for weather prediction, tropical storm intensification forecasts, and sea level monitoring five years after launch. The partners recently agreed to continue operations for two more years.

GOES: This year's decommissioning of GOES-12 ended six years of improved coverage over South America by using satellites that were to be retired. GOES-East now provides coverage over South America, but in Rapid Scan Operation (RSO) during extreme events in the U.S., coverage drops from six images every three hours to one. NOAA has implemented a schedule change to provide four images every three hours during RSO and is working with users to further refine this schedule.

Suomi NPP: CrIS data are now used in NOAA's numerical weather prediction models. Near real-time CrIS and ATMS data are available via GTS and EUMETCast. NOAA is researching how to deliver VIIRS's large data volumes and will update users. Archived data are 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: Spacecraft system module was "powered-on" for the first time on October 2, 2013. The primary instrument, ABI, was completed and is ready to be installed onto the satellite.

JPSS-1
www.jpss.noaa.gov

Polar-orbiting satellite

Key Instruments: VIIRS, CrIS, ATMS, OMPS, CERES

Expected Launch: Jan./Mar. 2017

Status: The spacecraft primary structure and all instruments have been built and are undergoing testing.

Jason-3

Ocean surface topography mission

Key Instruments: radar altimeter and advanced microwave radiometer

Expected Launch: Mar. 2015

Status: All core instruments have been integrated onto the spacecraft. Testing began in Sept. 2013.

Partners: EUMETSAT, CNES, NASA

DSCOVR

Space weather mission

Key Instruments: faraday cup, fluxgate magnetometer

Expected Launch: Nov. 2014/Jan. 2015

Status: Spacecraft expected to go into environmental testing this winter.

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 spacecraft and instruments that comprise the set of 6 equatorial satellites is proceeding well. Program planning and coordination is ongoing for the later 6 polar satellites.

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.*

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