

# Fact Sheet

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## **NPOESS at a Glance**

### **Name of Mission**

National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS)

### **Mission**

NPOESS merges the nation's current civilian and military weather polar-orbiting satellite programs into a single, national program, providing increased capability at a reduced overall cost to the nation. The system will provide timely and accurate data for long-range weather and climate forecasts.

### **Customer(s)**

Integrated Program Office (IPO), consisting of:

- Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Department of Defense
- NASA

### **Prime Contractor & Responsibilities**

Northrop Grumman leads the overall systems engineering and systems integration effort; Northrop Grumman is also responsible for acquisition of the sensors and the space segment assembly, test and integration of the spacecraft, launch support and test and evaluation.

### **Principal Teammate & Responsibilities**

Raytheon is responsible for the command, control and communications (C3) segment; interface data processing segment (IDPS, or mission data processing); and providing systems engineering support.

### **Space Segment**

The space segment consists of two satellites and includes an option for two additional satellites. The space segment will be augmented with data from the European Meteorological Operational (METOP) satellites.

### **Sensors, Data Products**

NPOESS currently includes nine sensors. The system will provide 39 environmental data records that will benefit a wide range of military and civilian users.

### **Missions Supported**

A sampling of missions includes: Aviation forecasts; shipping and aircraft carrier operations; agriculture/water resources management and military mobility assessments; hurricane/cyclone warnings; severe storm and flood warnings; solar and space environmental forecasts; seasonal to inter-annual weather and climate forecasting and inter-annual climate forecasting.

### **More...**

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### **Users**

DoD; the National Weather Service; regional forecast centers; national data centers; centers for environmental prediction and specialized forecasts; European and international centers; private weather forecasters, researchers, research centers, educators and individuals.

### **First Launch**

The first NPOESS satellite will be available for launch in the next decade.

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