

BACKGROUND

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the General Services Administration (GSA), in conjunction with their partners in the design, engineering, and construction industries, worked together to provide a new home for NOAA's environmental satellite and data processing operations. The new facility, the NOAA Satellite Operations Facility (NSOF), is located in the Suitland Federal Center, in Suitland, Maryland. NSOF provides as replacement for NOAA's satellite programs operations, which were housed in the World War II-era Federal Office Building complex.

The investment in construction dollars and replacement of current facilities demonstrates GSA's and NOAA's commitment to the Suitland Federal Center and the surrounding community. The U.S. operational environmental satellite program, part of a predecessor agency to NOAA, has been located in the Suitland Federal Center since 1958, when it joined weather-related functions that had been in Suitland since the late 1940's.

NSOF STATISTICS

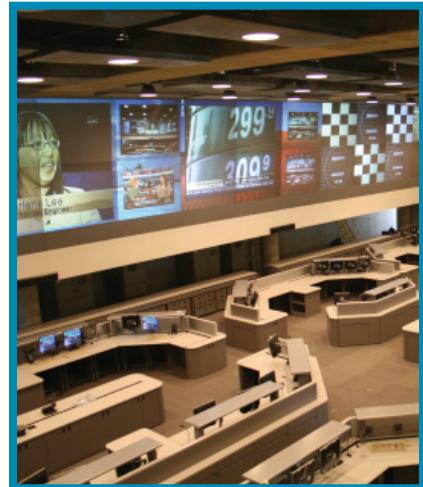
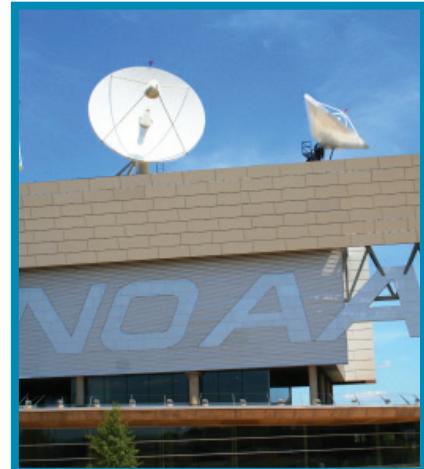
Location:	Suitland Federal Center, Suitland, Maryland
Size:	208,271 gross square feet (19,324 square meters)
Personnel:	549 – NOAA employees and contractors plus personnel from Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Construction Cost:	\$53M, including both GSA and NOAA portions of the project
Project Cost:	Total \$81 million, including both GSA and NOAA portions of the project. NOAA's outfitting and continuity of operations during the move from FB4 to NSOF are included in these amounts.
Green Roof:	146,000 square feet / 13,560 square meters
LEED Rating:	Silver (pending)

NSOF houses over \$50 million dollars of high technology equipment, including 16 antennas, which control over \$4.7 billion dollars of environmental satellites. The 24 by 7 critical operations at the NSOF provide environmental data used to develop weather and climate products, as well as other information products used daily by industry and citizens across the Nation.

Command and control systems and data processing systems housed in the NSOF include:

- NOAA's Satellite Operations Control Center (SOCC) provides command, control, and communication for:
 - NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES),
 - NOAA's Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES),
 - Department of Defense's Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP);
- NOAA's computer facility processes satellite data to support meteorology, oceanography, solid earth-earth geophysics, and solar-terrestrial sciences;
- NOAA's systems development for future observing platforms;
- COSPAS-SARSAT – satellite-assisted search and rescue; and
- National/Naval Ice Center, jointly operated by NOAA, Navy, and U.S. Coast Guard

NSOF will provide critical support, and command, control, and communication for NOAA's next-generation satellite series:



- National Polar-orbiting Operational Satellite System (NPOESS) Preparatory Project,
- NPOESS – the future polar-orbiting environmental satellite
- GOES-R – the future geostationary operational environmental satellite

NSOF Building

NSOF was designed by Morphosis/Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture & Engineering, P.C., a joint venture, under contract to GSA, and constructed by P. J. Dick Incorporated. The design of the building is meant to reflect NOAA's dual high technology and environmental stewardship mission. It was designed under the auspices of GSA's Design Excellence Program, and the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The design consists of two main components, a slender three-story tower that houses the satellite operations and computer centers, and is topped with multiple antennae, and a high-tech office space that is covered with a domed green roof. The roof is one of the largest green roofs in the National Capital Region. The central plant has redundant mechanical and electrical infrastructure to support the facilities operations 24x7.

The NSOF has been awarded several design citations, including a GSA Design Award for 2002 for outstanding public architecture and design. The building has been displayed at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., as part of an exhibit entitled "Of Our Time," and in architectural exhibits in Venice, Italy.

The NOAA Satellite and Information Service's mission is to provide and ensure timely access to global environmental data from satellites and other sources to promote, protect, and enhance the Nation's economy, security, environment, and quality of life. To fulfill its responsibilities, NOAA acquires and manages the Nation's operational environmental satellites, provides data and information services, and conducts related research.

