# Bridging Research and Operations For Future Environmental Services

#### **Keynote Address**

NOAA

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4<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Future National Operational Environmental Satellite Systems 88th AMS Annual Meeting New Orleans, Louisiana January 22, 2008



### Outline



- A changing world
- Where we're headed: Environmental services
- Needed advances in capabilities
- Earth observations
- S&T infusion
- Key elements for success



### A Changing World Population Growth



> 6.6 Billion

#### ~ 1.7 Billion

**1908 2008** 



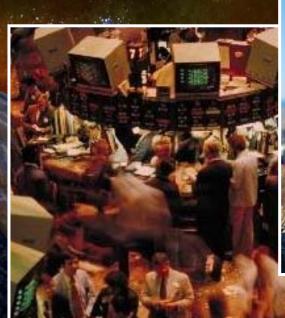


### A Changing World Sensitive to Weather, Water, & Climate



### Future Environmental Services

### Economic needs Societal needs Security needs









### A Changing World Increasingly Complex and Dynamic







#### Data, Products, and Services to:

- Greatly reduce loss of life and injury
- Enable communities to mitigate property loss well in advance of threatening conditions

Alert economic sectors about environmental risks with sufficient lead time to limit or avoid impacts

5-Day Track Forecast cone and Watch/Warning



# Where We're Headed

**Environmental Services** 

#### Tornadoes

- Warning lead times increase from an average of 13 min. to as much as 1 hour
  - Virtually eliminating loss of life from lack of warning

#### **Severe Thunderstorms**

- Warning lead times increase from an average of 18 min. to as much as 2 hrs.
  - Improving air traffic routing
  - Virtually eliminating severe weather-related air traffic delays









# Where We're Headed

**Environmental Services** 

#### **Tropical Cyclones**

- Warning lead time for landfall increases from less than 24 hours to 3 days
  - Provides emergency managers time to conduct orderly evacuations

#### Winter Storms

- Warning lead time increases from an average of 18 hours to days
  - Improving commerce and transportation sectors









# Where We're Headed

**Environmental Services** 

### Air Quality

- Warnings about poor air quality 4-6 days in advance for metropolitan areas
  - Power companies shift to alternate fuels
  - Alerts individuals at risk and health care professionals

### Climate

- Enhance current climate products and services with climate change information
  - Mitigation and adaptation for climate change
  - Communities and weather-sensitive industries reduce risk







#### **Next Generation Aviation Services**

- Aviation forecasts to exceed 80% accuracy
- Provide support through NextGen
  - 4D weather cube

#### **Space Weather**

- Provide real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events
  - Understand needs of fast-growing customer base









#### Water Resource Information

- Provide high-resolution water quantity, quality, and soil moisture forecasts
  - Emergency and resource managers mitigate losses for conditions ranging from droughts to floods

#### **Ecosystem Impact Information**

- Provide forecasts of weather, water, and climate impacts for management decisions
  - Management decisions reflect relationships among humans, non-human species, and the environments in which they live









**Forecast Uncertainty Information** 

- Integral and essential part of all forecasts
- Enterprise-wide partnership to generate and communicate forecast uncertainty to decision makers and public
- Expressed in terms of probabilities

Completering and Commission Uncertain Communication Un

Users decide whether to take action and appropriate level of response
 Thresholds unique to decision maker – based on mission risk



### Needed Advances in Capabilities Getting Real Results



#### Advances

- Earth Observations
- Data Assimilation
- Models
- Forecasting Techniques
- Information Technology
- Dissemination Methods

#### Results

#### Improved:

Hurricane Track, Intensity and Precipitation Forecasts

> Tornado and Flash Flood Forecasts

Aviation, Fire, Marine, and Space Weather Forecasts

Flood, River, and Ocean Predictions

Seasonal Climate Forecasts for Energy, Agriculture, Etc.



Needed Advances in Capabilities Focus on Earth Observations



Improve temporal, spatial, and spectral resolution at all scales

- Obtain observations of new environmental parameters
  - Sustain data quality and timeliness
- Integrate multi-purpose observing systems and networks

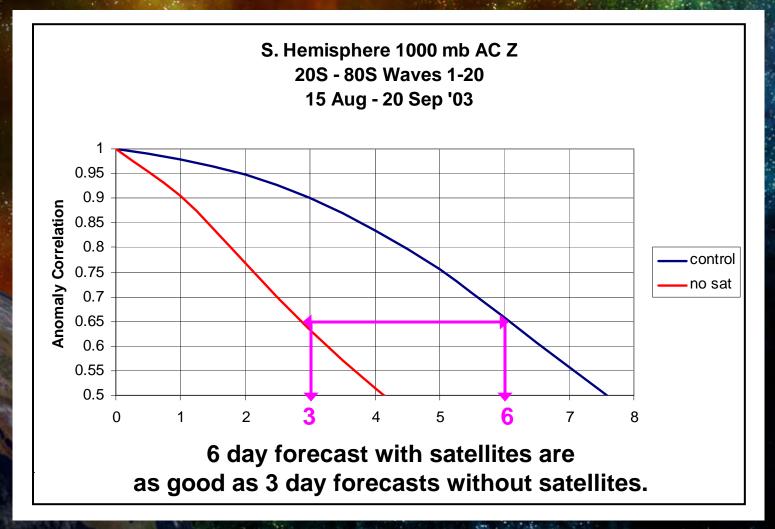




### Earth Observations Operational Use of Satellite Data



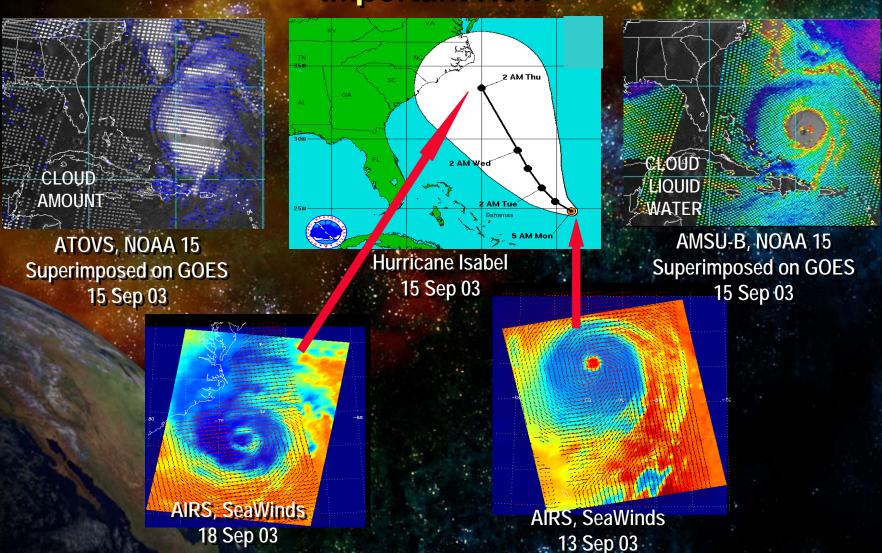
**Important in the Past** 





#### Earth Observations Operational Use of Satellite Data Important Now



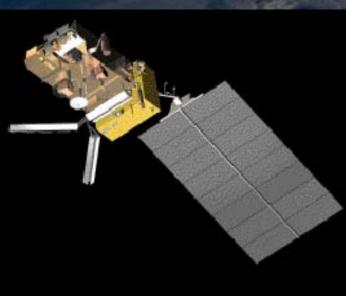




### Earth Observations Operational Use of Satellite Data

#### **Important in the Future**









### S&T Infusion



**Challenges and Opportunities Gaining resources – IT and people Staying customer focused Staying abreast of opportunities** Keeping pace with technology Planning for success – build in operational needs early





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S&T Infusion Key Elements for Success

# Bridging the Valley of Death



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Improved Tech Infusion

Vision - Process - Architecture - Teamwork - Investment Plan



### Key Elements for Success Vision



Provide best satellite solutions
Maximize use of data sets
Maximize return on investment
Minimize transition time and cost



#### Key Elements for Success Process



### Planning

- Establish coordinated "thread" to operations early
- Develop joint plans R&D to Operations

#### Execution

- Scheduled and frequent communication and coordination
- Agreed upon decision points and criteria





### Key Elements for Success Teamwork

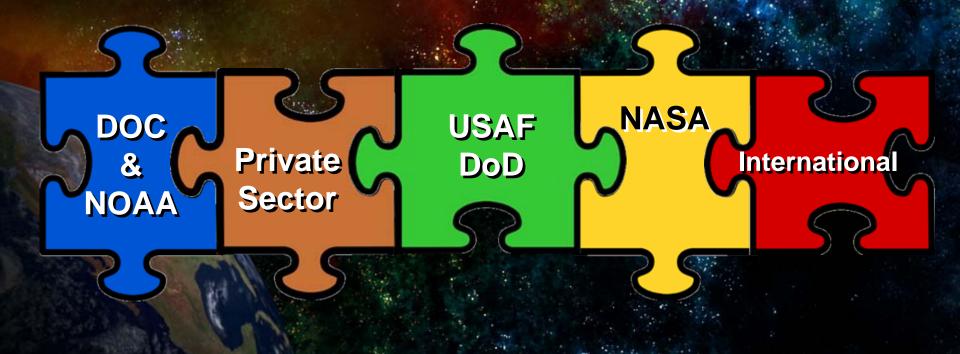


#### **Research**

## Orients research strategies to facilitate transition

#### **Operations**

#### Orients operations to receive research





### **Key Elements for Success** Architecture



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NORE

ASA

JCSI

IT infrastructure – Comms, formats Common models and diagnostics Standard test cases CULTURE FOR DATA ASSI Testbeds – JCSDA



### Key Elements for Success End-to-End Investment Plan



# Need coordinated lifecycle investment plan including

- All key players
- Prioritization of activities

Transition

"End-to-end" and phased investment strategy

**Operations** 

With clearly identified leads and major milestones



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# Your Challenge Today:

Identify new real world benefits NPOESS will deliver that you didn't consider before.

We're working together to save lives!

