

NPOESS - A Restructured Program

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During the last decade, the two U.S. civilian and military systems, POES and DMSP, have evolved to use a somewhat similar spacecraft bus, but have different instrument suites. Many government studies had been conducted to assess the value of converging the two systems into a single system. Most studies recommended retaining the separate systems. A 1993 tri-agency study by DoD, NOAA, and NASA recommended that a single converged system should replace the current separate systems.

A Presidential Decision Directive (PDD), signed in May of 1994, directed the convergence of the polar orbiting weather satellites systems into a single national system. The Integrated Program Office (IPO) within NOAA was established in October 1994 as a result of the signing of a tri-agency Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in May 1994. The new converged system was identified as the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS). The IPO is staffed with representatives of NOAA, Department of Defense and NASA. This unique tri-agency office has the mission to provide a converged polar-orbiting operational, environmental satellite system that meets user community requirements. Accessibility to data is a key feature of the NPOESS mission.

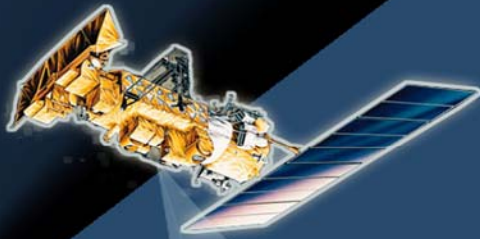
In 2005, the NPOESS program sustained numerous technical problems. These problems resulted in significant impacts to the overall mission content and schedule. Mandated U.S. Congressional and senior NOAA, NASA and Air Force oversight has resulted in a restructured NPOESS program, as announced on June 5, 2006. This paper and presentation will explain all the changes to the NPOESS program. It will explain the impacts to operational and research data users, including direct readout users. A detailed review of the mission by orbit will be provided as well as current sensor status updates. This will also include sensors (such as CMIS) that have been de-manifested from early NPOESS flights. Although, NPP is minimally affected by the NPOESS restructure, an NPP status update will be provided for completeness. Schedule and planned NPP/NPOESS implementation will be discussed as part of the paper.

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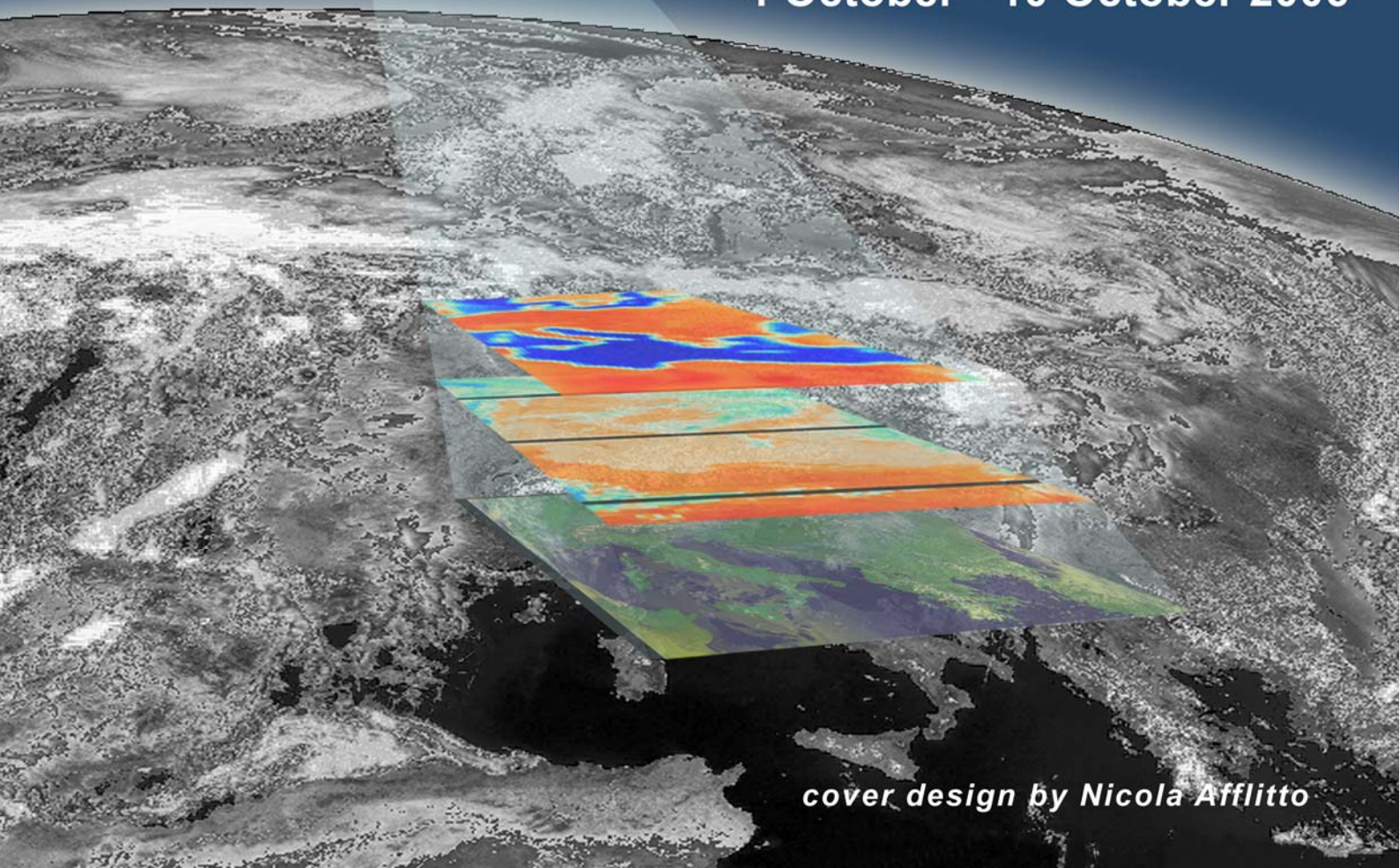
using space-based observations



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