NOAA Updates on Private Sector Engagement

Presented to CGMS-53 WGIII session

Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites

Executive summary of the WP

Last year, Plenary agreed to add a standing agenda item to update members on engagement with private sector activities for the intersessional period. This serves as NOAA's update for 2024-2025.

As NOAA aims to expand observations, evolve models, and improve information systems, we require more partnerships, as well as a reimagining of how we design, acquire and operate future observation information systems. Given the rapid pace of innovation, the commercial aerospace arena and remote sensing capabilities are becoming an increasing part of NOAA's future architecture as we continue to integrate commercial satellite environmental data into our portfolio of satellites for NOAA operational services and for other government agencies and international partners.

This year, NOAA's Commercial Data Program (CDP) successfully engaged with the commercial sector through pilots and acquisition of operational satellite data-as-a-service for commercial data to help improve weather forecasts and provide risk reduction to the overall observing system. In December 2024, NOAA also released its Guidance for Commercial Data Buys, which lays out the considerations, best practices, and guidelines by which NOAA programs and offices should consider when engaging in commercial data buy opportunities from sources that contribute to environmental intelligence.

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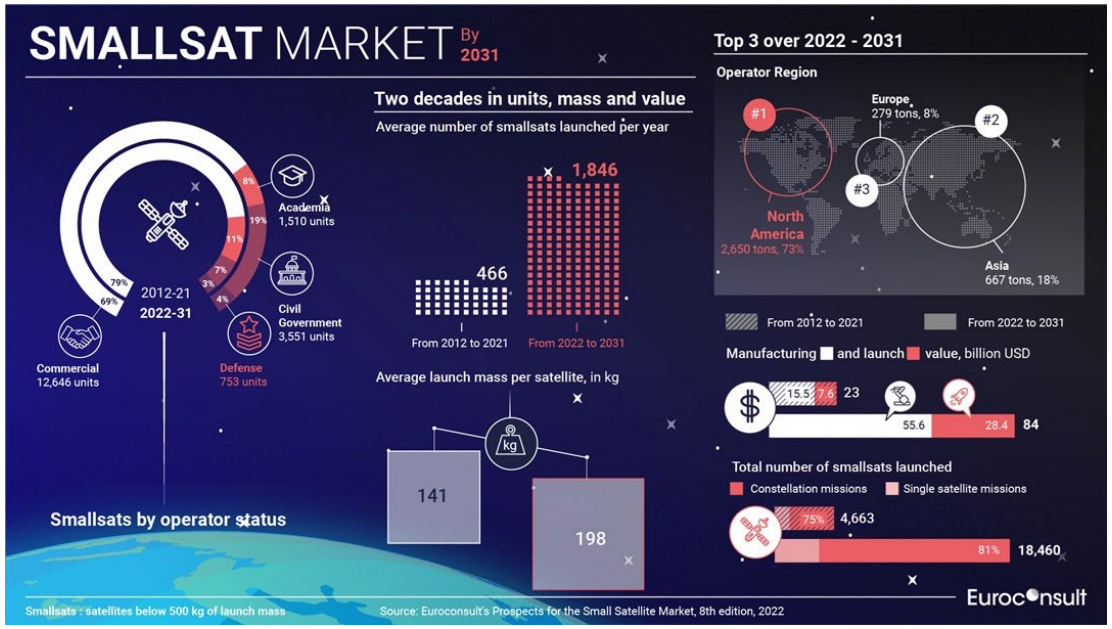
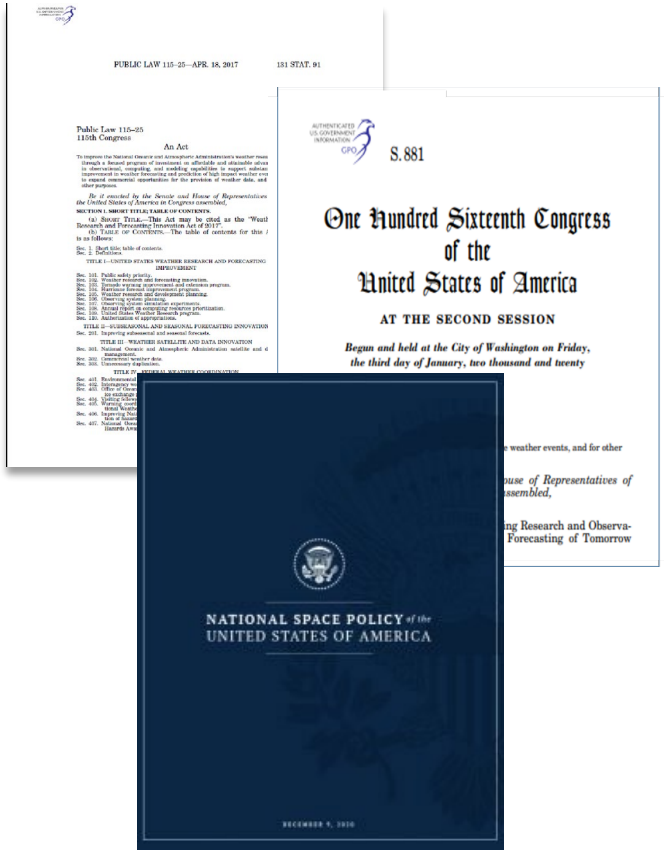
Trends and Drivers





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NOAA Commercial Space Policy Guiding Principles

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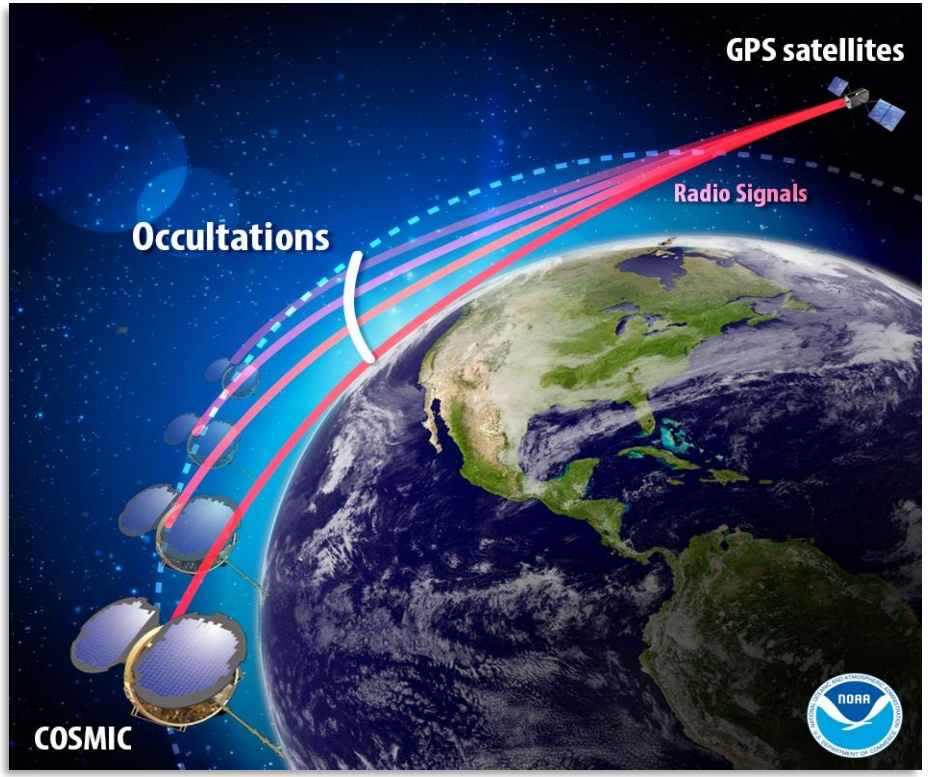
NOAA Commercial Data Buy Guidance

- Released “Guidance for NOAA Commercial Data Buys: A Framework for NOAA Programs and Offices Conducting Commercial Data Buys” in December 2024.
- The Guidance lays out the considerations by which NOAA should engage with the commercial sector on operational commercial data buy opportunities from all sources that contribute to environmental intelligence.
- Includes considerations for:
  - Data quality and management
  - Pilot projects
  - Risk tolerance
  - Data use and sharing rights
- The Guidance is generally aligned with the CGMS Best Practices for Commercial Data Buys, adopted by CGMS Plenary in June 2024.

NOAA Space-Based Commercial Weather Data Buys



Radio Occultation Data Buy II (RODB-2)

2023 – 2028

- Delivery Order 5 (Sep 2024 – Sept 2025)
- NOAA contracted with Spire Global and PlanetIQ for 3,000 near-real-time GNSS RO data profiles per day (Neutral Atmosphere Data only)
- All data purchased with unlimited distribution rights, and no duplication with other data sales by Spire
- Annual RFI to seek additional sources

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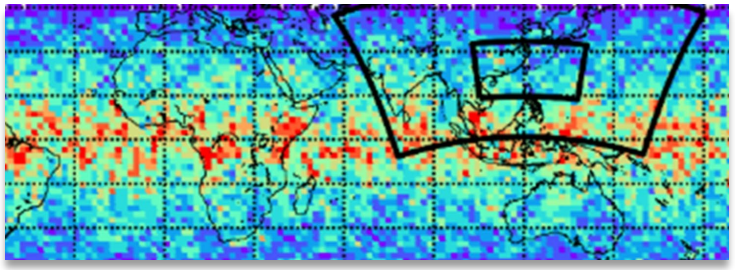
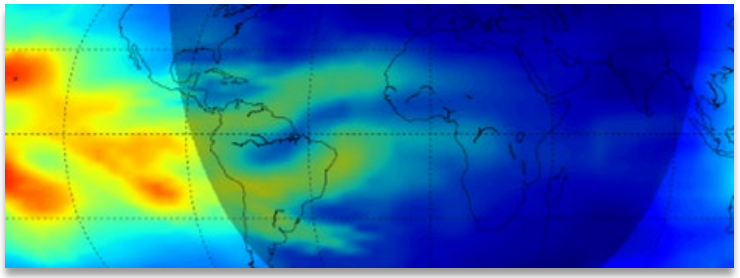
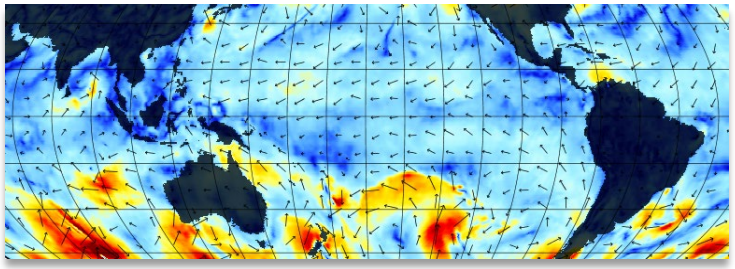
NOAA Commercial Weather Data Pilots







GNSS-R Ocean Surface Winds (OSW) Pilot (ongoing):

2024 - 2025

Microwave Sounder Pilot (ongoing)

2024 - 2026

Space Weather Pilot- Completed

Ended in 2024

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Key issues of relevance to CGMS:

- Reference to HLPP
  - 1.6.1. Identify/evaluate potential or commercial Earth observation technologies -- and share information on pilots/testbeds etc. to evaluate new commercial EO technologies.
  - 1.6.2 Assess the operational maturity of commercial observation technology
  - 1.6.3 Develop best practices/templates for end user license agreements/ procurements, for considering the value of public access and the additional costs of data sharing rights, including quality control considerations

Thank you!

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