

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on New Generation Operational Environmental Satellite Systems:** The Symposium was held in conjunction with the 96<sup>th</sup> AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA on 11-14 January 2016. The Symposium featured 17 oral sessions, two poster sessions (with over 100 posters), a panel discussion, a Town Hall, and student reception. The Symposium began with a joint panel discussion {with the 4<sup>th</sup> AMS Symposium on the Joint Center for Satellite Data Assimilation (JCSDA); the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference on Integrated Observing and Assimilation Systems for the Atmosphere, Oceans, and Land Surface (IOAS-AOLS); and the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Transition of Research to Operations) on “Perspective and Plans for Future Observing Systems in Earth System Science.” The five invited panelists included Prof. Faisal Hossain (University of Washington), Dr. Tsengdar Lee (NASA/Headquarters), Dr. Paul Rosen (NASA/JPL), Dr. Jeffrey Masek (NASA/GSFC), and Mr. Ralph Stoffler (US Air Force Weather/Pentagon). Mr. James Olson (Tempus Global Data) served as the moderator. A session on “JPSS and GOES-R Instrument Innovators” provided a fascinating history and legacy behind JPSS VIIRS, CrIS, and ATMS instruments –and the GOES-R ABI and GLM instruments. Presentations were given by Dr. Steven Goodman, NOAA/NESDIS/GOES-R Program Office (ABI); Mr. Timothy Schmit, NOAA/NESDIS/Center for Satellite Applications and Research (ABI); Dr. Jeffery Puschell, Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems (VIIRS), Dr. William Smith, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison (CrIS); and Dr. William Blackwell, MIT Lincoln Laboratory (ATMS), who made great contributions to their development. Monday evening the Symposium (along with the 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium on JCSDA and the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Transition of Research to Operations) hosted a two-hour reception for those students interested in satellite meteorology. Dr. Richard Spinrad, NOAA Chief Scientist, was the MC. Here students were given the opportunity to network with a multitude of established scientists and other professionals in meteorology and related fields. The students responded very positively to the “speed mentoring” design of the reception which conveniently allowed the students to have a discussion with all of the mentors. To better recognize intriguing samples of the superb research of our next-generation satellite meteorologists, the Symposium program held one oral session totally dedicated to student presentations.

In the session on “Program Overviews and Status” senior agency leaders from NESDIS (Dr. Stephen Volz), GOES-R (Mr. Greg Mandt), JPSS (Mr. Harry Cikanek), EUMETSAT (Dr. Kenneth Holmlund), and JMA (Mr. Toshiyuki Kurino) presented a fascinating overviews and updates on new U.S., European and Japanese environmental satellite programs. Several of the ensuing Symposium sessions focused on the new applications and societal benefits evolving from the new generation of operational environmental satellites. Several other Symposium sessions concentrated on readiness activities for the upcoming new operational environmental satellite systems. A Town Hall Meeting provided an opportunity for each invited panelist to convey their unique perspective on “Contributions of Environmental Satellites to Societal Weather Readiness and Environmental Intelligence.” Dr. Jeffrey Puschell (Raytheon Company) moderated the Town Hall consisting of the panelists: Mr. Douglas Hilderbrand (NWS Communications Office), Mr. Bill Ward (NWS ESSD, Pacific Region), Mr. Peter Curran (NWS OAA, Liaison to FEMA Hurricane Team), and Dr. Henrik Tolman (Director, NWS EMC). Another session titled “Societal Benefits of Data Applications” featured an invited presentation by Charles Wooldridge (NESDIS IIA) whose talk described an international effort underway to measure the value of environmental satellites. The session on “Satellite Testbeds and Proving Ground Activities” enlightened the audience on new satellite

applications being evaluated in realistic operational environments. A particularly timely session “One Year of Himawari 8” gave participants an early insight into new capabilities that await the approaching launch of GOES-R.

The Symposium was given the opportunity to host Part III of the Special Session on “US-International Partnerships.” The part III session highlighted how international partnerships are broadening the global use and overall social benefits from environmental satellite data. The Symposium also co-hosted with the 6th Conference on Transition of Research to Operations two sessions on “Enterprise Ground Architectures and the Research to Operations Process: Tools, Technologies, and Experiences.” In addition, other sessions addressed topics on preparing for GOES-R, JPSS-1 leveraging S-NPP successes, direct broadcast capabilities, ensuring data continuity, algorithm development, calibration and validation of algorithms.