

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# EXPLORE EARTH

**JULIE ROBINSON, PhD**

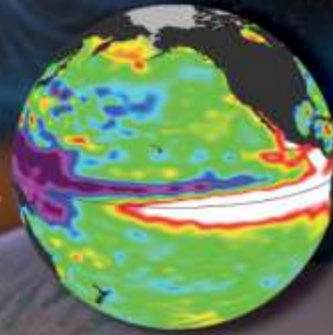
Deputy Director, Earth Science Division,  
Science Mission Directorate

Sept 7th, 2023



# Earth System Science

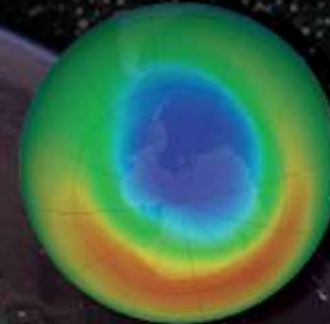
**Climate Variability  
and Change**



**Carbon Cycle  
and Ecosystems**



**Atmospheric  
Composition**



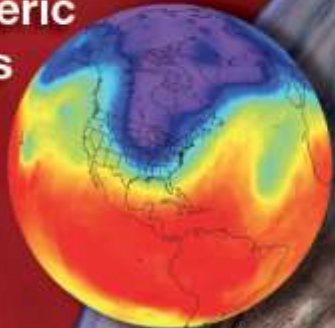
**Water and  
Energy  
Cycle**

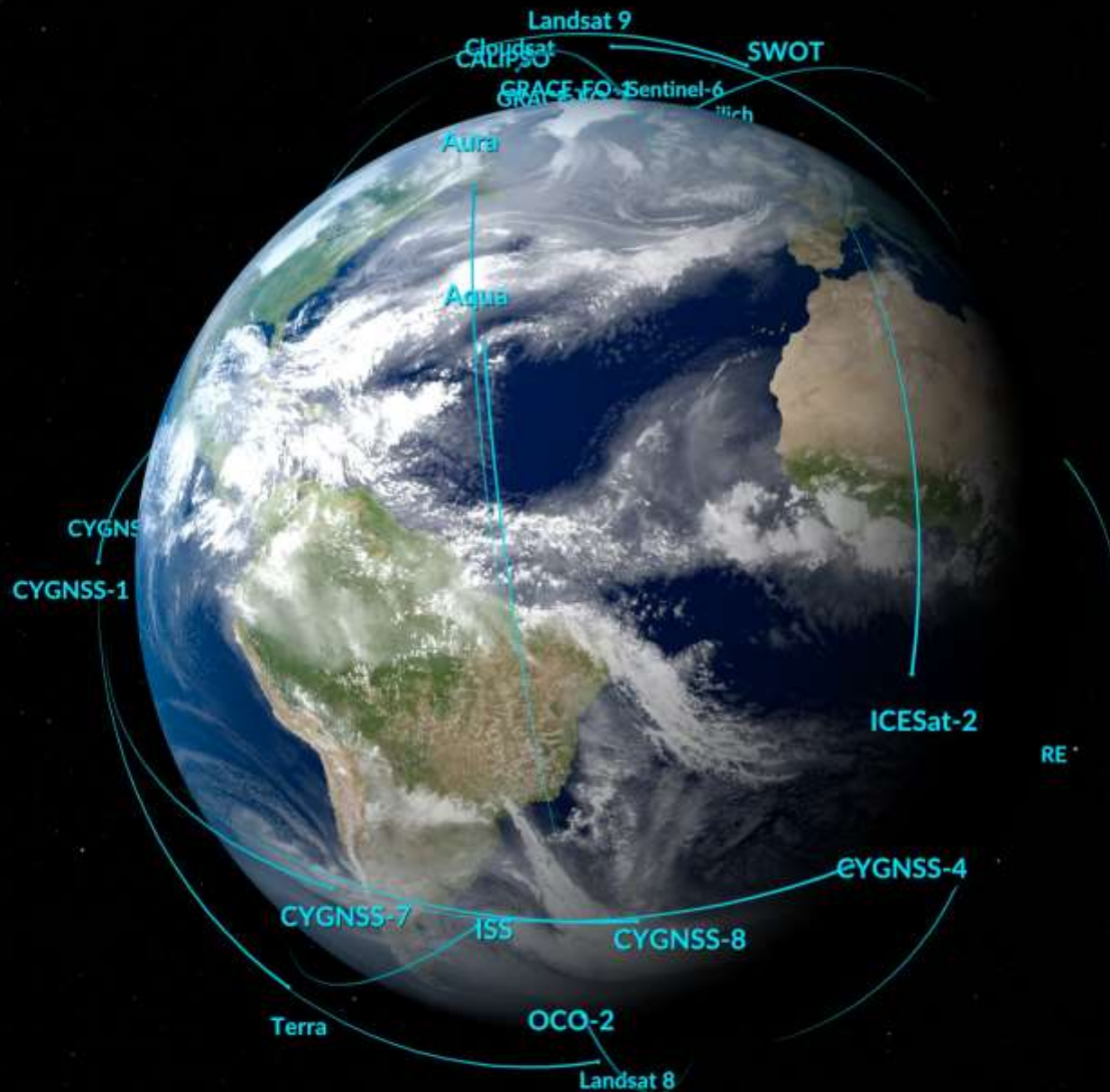


**Earth Surface  
and Interior**



**Weather and  
Atmospheric  
Dynamics**

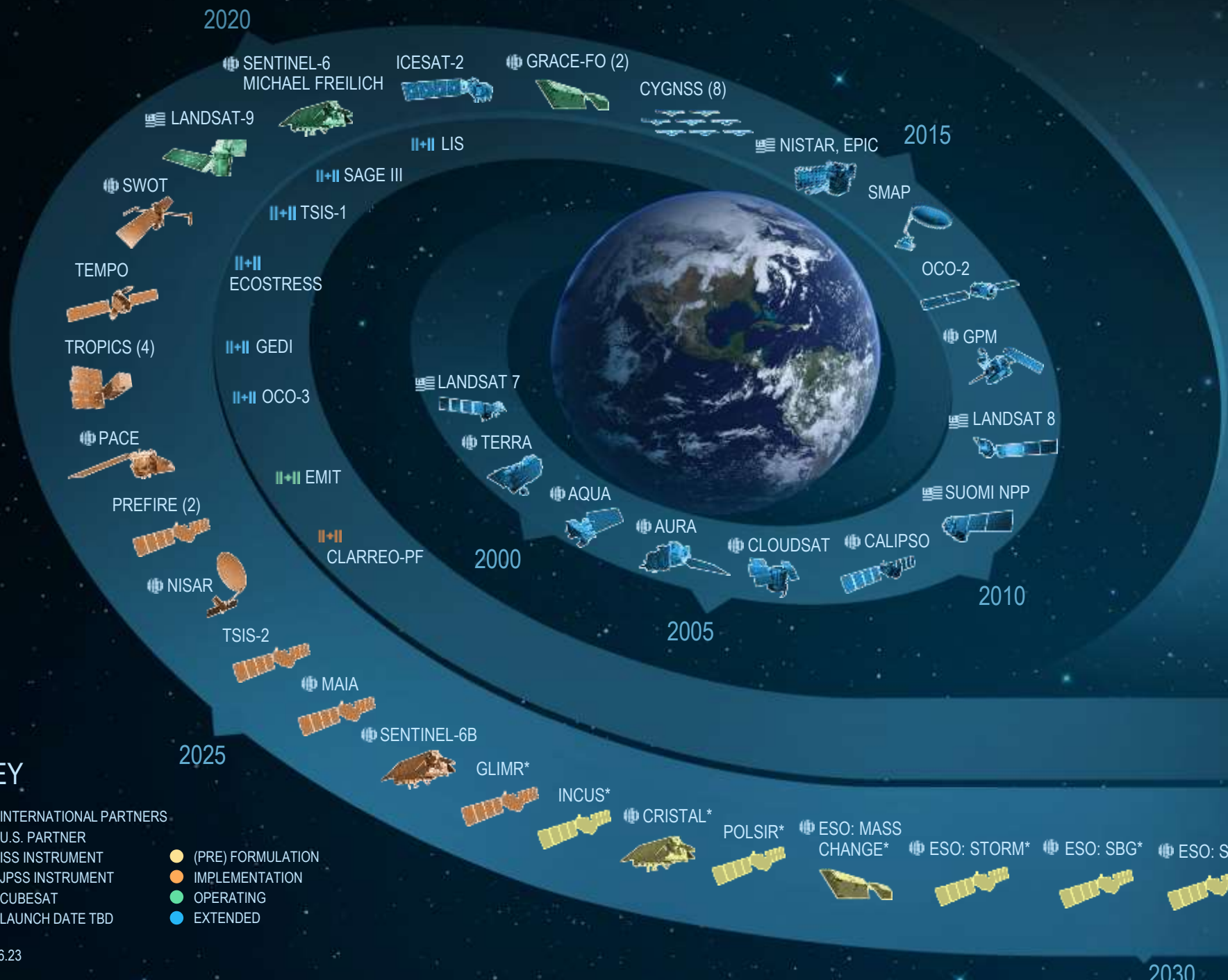




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# EARTH FLEET



## INVEST/CUBESATS

- NACHOS 2022
- CTIM 2022
- NACHOS-2 2022
- MURI-FD 2023
- SNOOPI\* 2024
- HYTI\* 2024
- ARGOS\* 2024

## JPSS INSTRUMENTS

- OMPS-LIMB 2022
- LIBERA 2027
- OMPS-LIMB 2027
- OMPS-LIMB 2032

## ISS INSTRUMENTS

## MISSIONS

### KEY

- INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
- U.S. PARTNER
- ISS INSTRUMENT
- JPSS INSTRUMENT
- CUBESAT
- LAUNCH DATE TBD
- (PRE) FORMULATION
- IMPLEMENTATION
- OPERATING
- EXTENDED

# NASA EARTH FLEET

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS



- (PRE) FORMULATION ●
- IMPLEMENTATION ●
- PRIMARY OPS ●
- EXTENDED OPS ●

# Principles of Commercial Partnerships

- Strategic partnerships that leverage unique strengths to drive scientific progress
- Partnerships that innovate both in *what* we do with commercial partners and *how* we do it
- Evolving partnership models: experimentation is key and some experiments may fail
- Traditional and non-traditional partnerships for success in “enabling new science” and “more science per dollar”
- Leverage existing commercial capacity, demand, and expertise, while exploring emerging business areas
- Build on investments in partnerships across NASA and other parts of the government, sharing our own best practices

# Core Links in USG Climate Services Knowledge Value Chain

## **Generate** climate information:

- Observations
- Modeling and simulation
- Indigenous and traditional knowledge
- Lived experience

## **Deliver** climate services:

- Mapping and visualization
- Extension services
- Training and capacity building
- Storytelling

## **Evaluate** climate services:

- Peer review
- User surveys
- Benefit/cost analysis
- Randomized control trials



## **Develop** climate services:

- Science translation
- User engagement
- Design co-production
- Application development

## **Use** climate services:

- Risk assessment
- Hazard mitigation
- Project design and planning
- Investing and asset management

# Building collaborations with industry

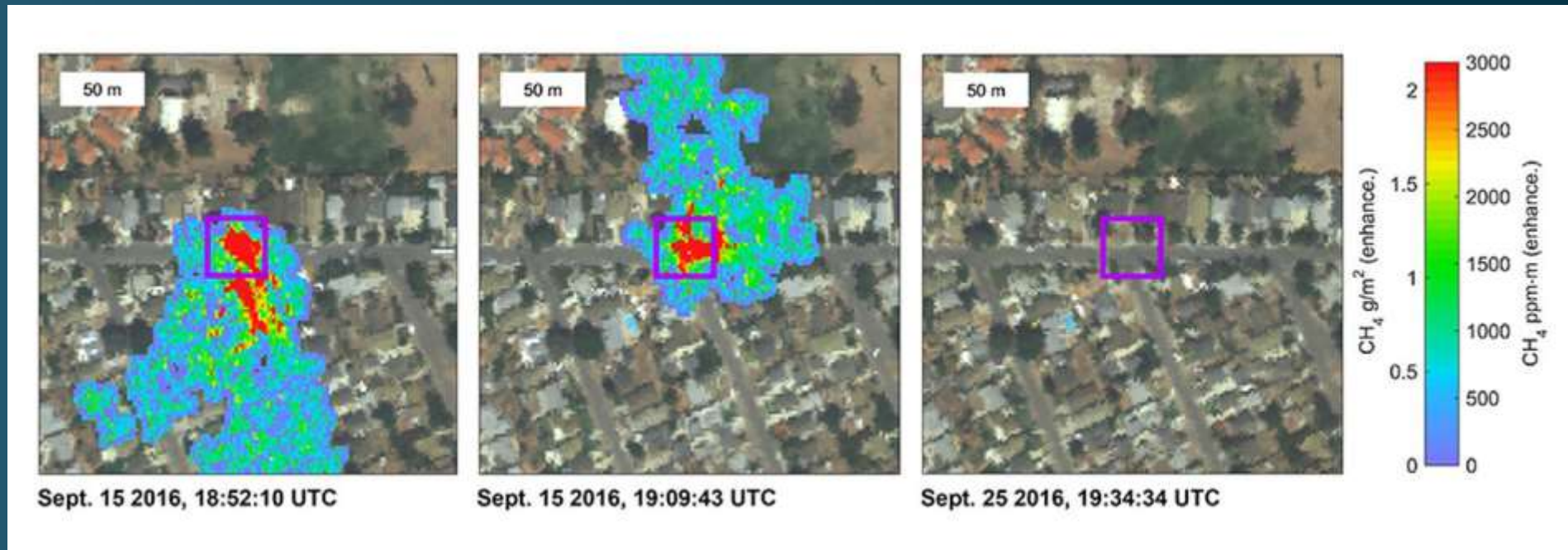


Rocket Lab's Electron rocket lifts off from Launch Complex 1 at Māhia, New Zealand at 9:00 p.m., carrying two TROPICS CubeSats for NASA.

***Credits: Rocket Lab***



# AVIRIS Methane detection: technology transfer example

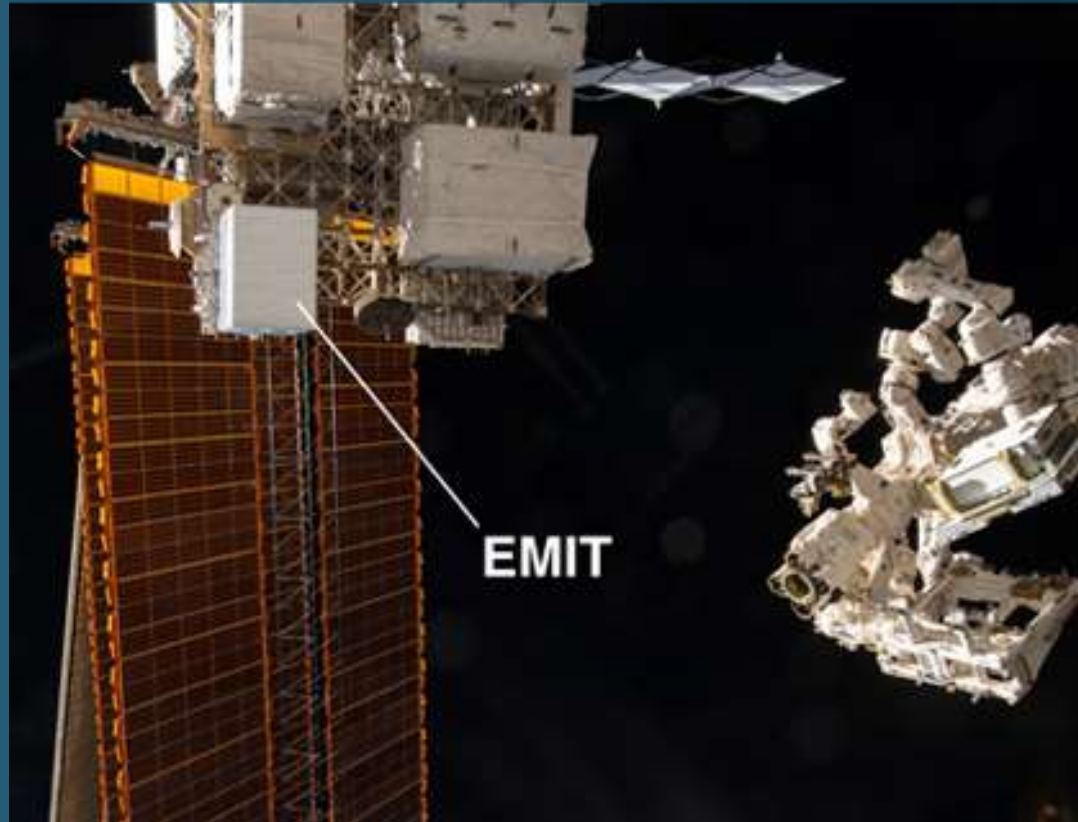


Starts with a NASA funded Airborne campaign to test the idea that the AVIRIS instrument can detect  $\text{CH}_4$  plumes



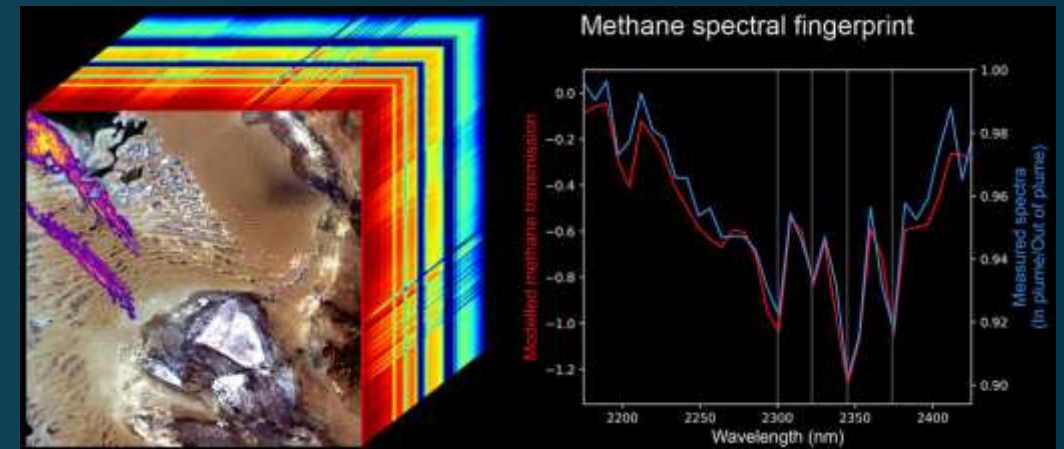


# EMIT CH4 observations: technology transfer example



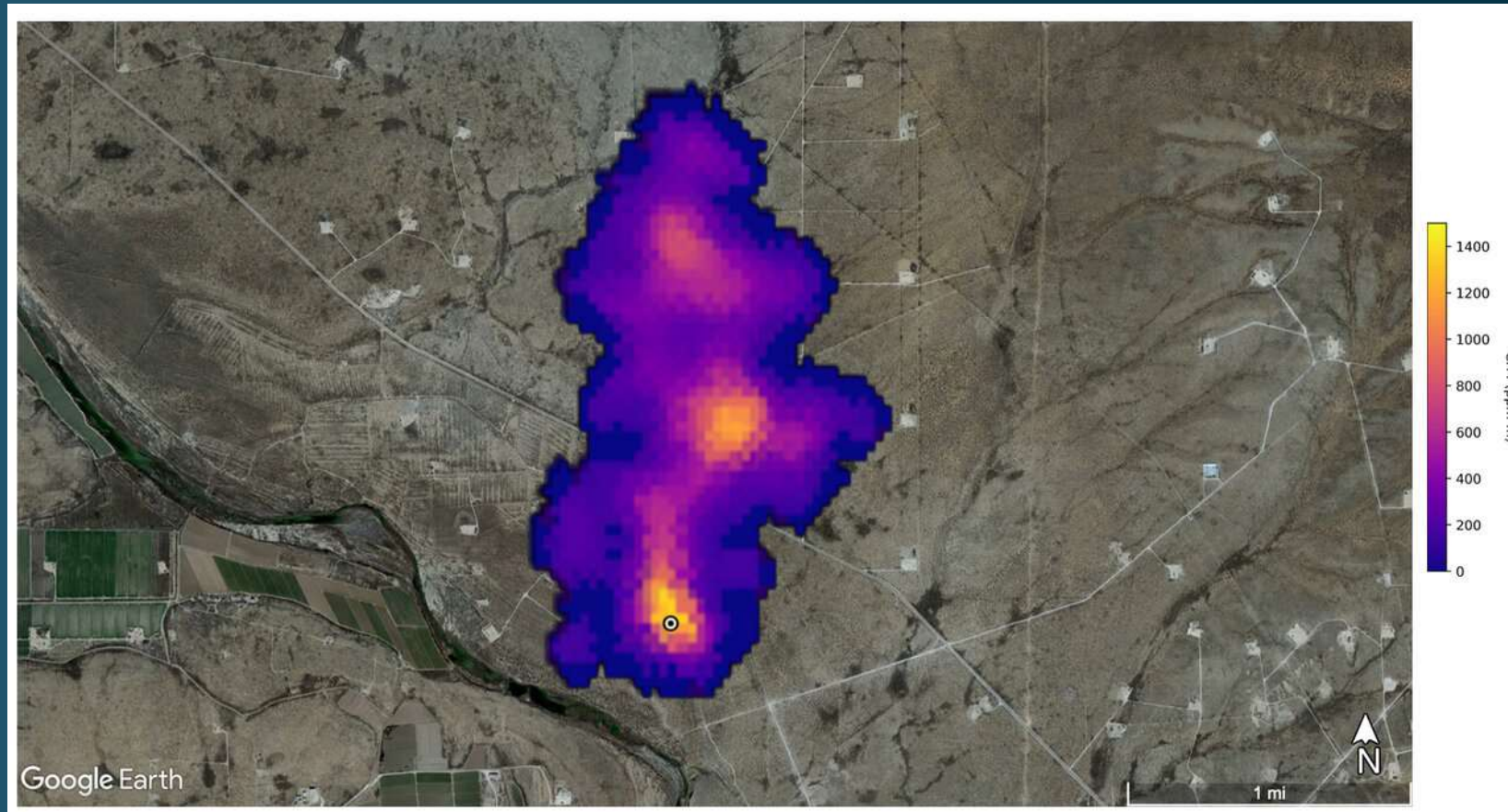
EMIT was proposed to Earth Venture Instrument to do mineral and dust observations

As EMIT is very much like the AVIRIS instruments, NASA HQ funded them to expand their mission to include CH4 observations





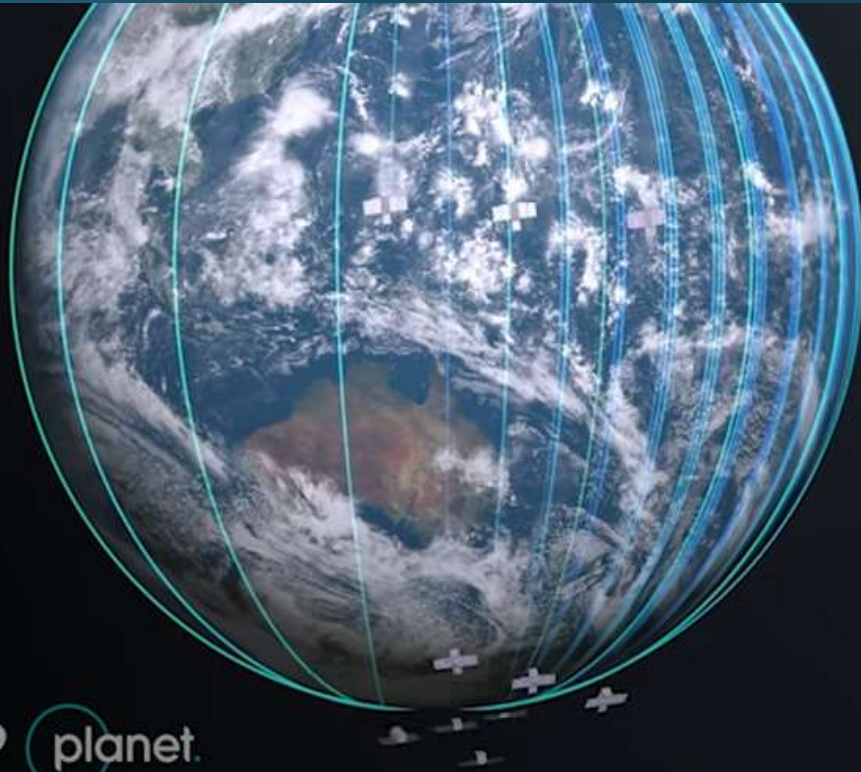
# EMIT CH<sub>4</sub> observations: technology transfer example



Methane plume 2 miles (3 kilometers) long that NASA's EMIT mission detected southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech



# Methane Observations: technology transfer example

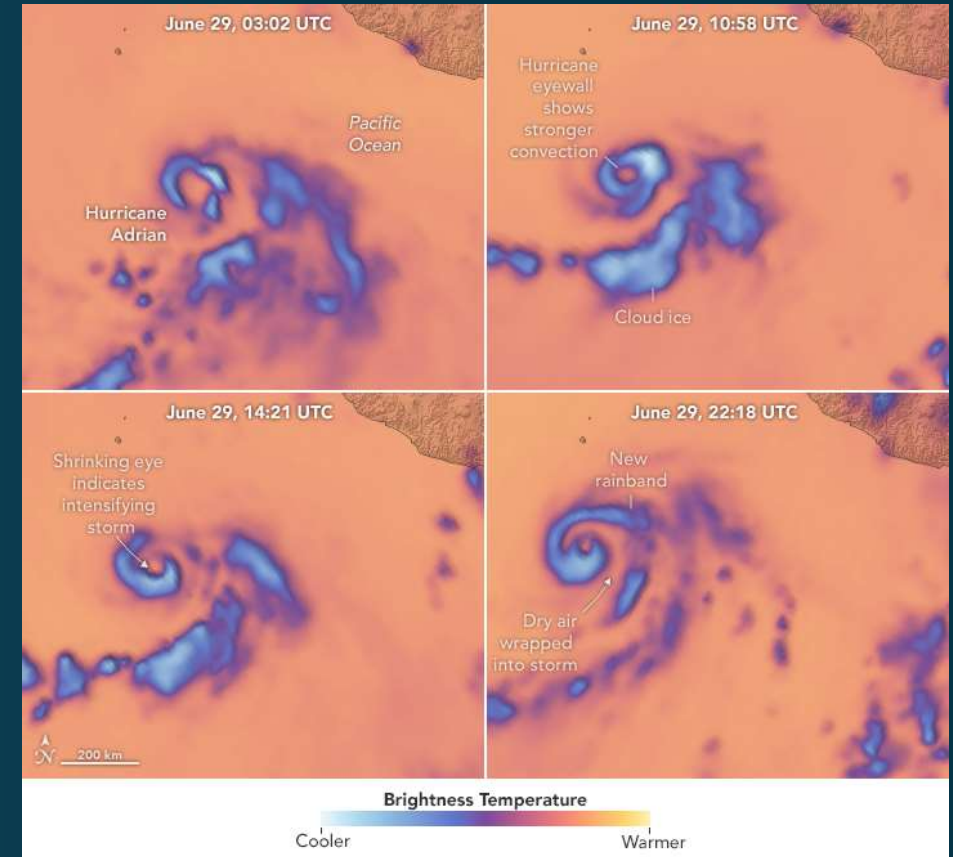
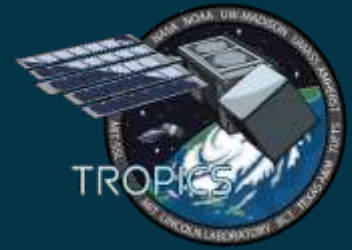


**Carbon Mapper**  
Phase 2



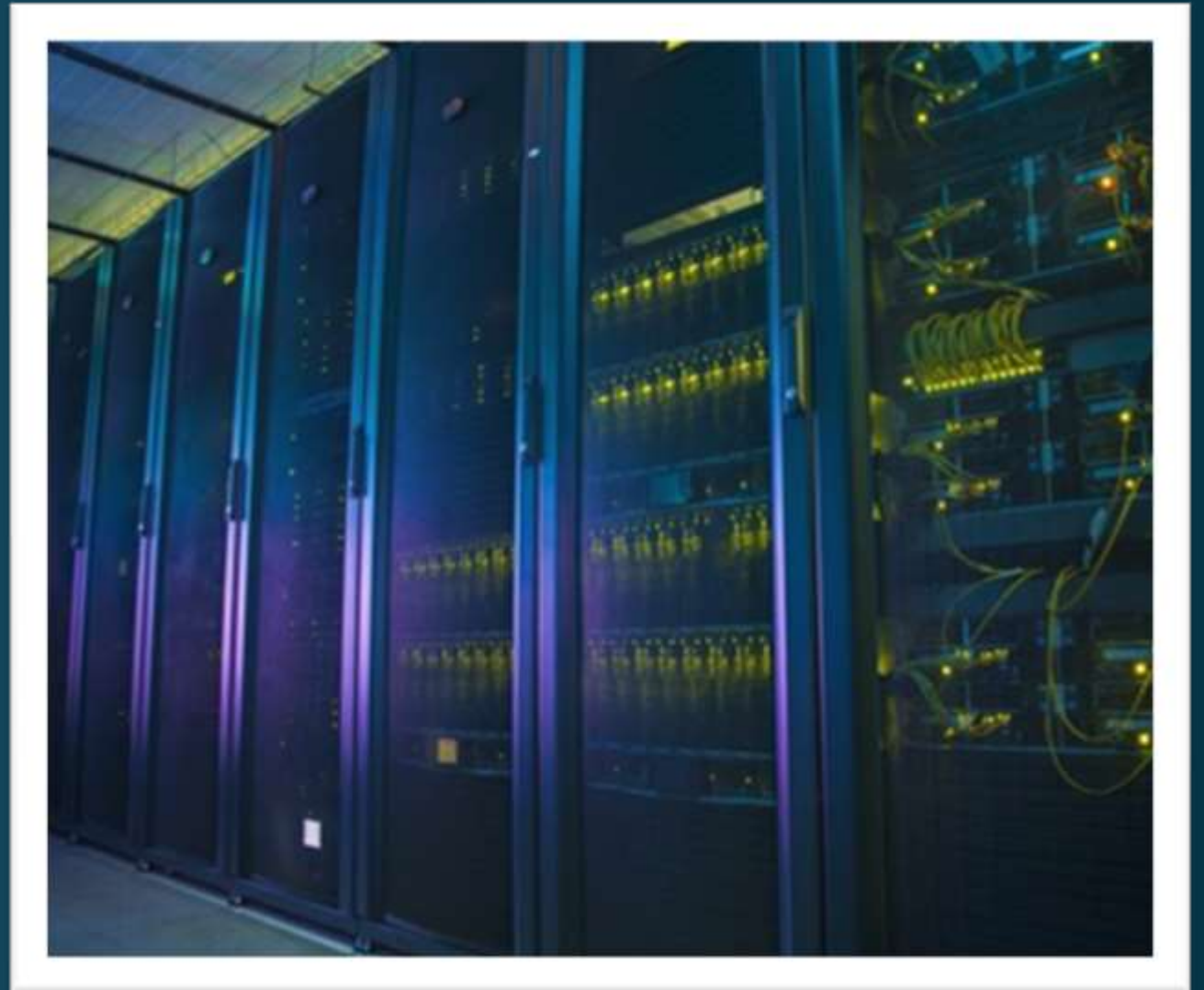
- The Carbon Mapper full constellation is designed to provide daily to weekly sampling depending on target prioritization.
- Offering a methane leak detection service for operators to enable timely repairs
- Contributing to methane intensity indicators to support market-based decarbonization of supply chains
- Providing independent quantification of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from industrial facilities globally

# TROPICS Technology transition example



# Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition

NASA sees that commercial partnerships will comprise a growing role in the future of Earth Observations, through a spectrum of approaches, from data buys to public-private partnerships.



# CSDA Data Holdings

Vendor	Constellations/ Products	Availability Dates	Orbit Characteristics	Spatial Resolution	Spectral Characteristics	Sample
Planet	PlanetScope, RapidEye	12/31/2005 - Present	Sun Synchronous	3 - 6.5 meters	RGB, NIR (440-860 nm), Panchromatic	
	SkySat	3/10/2015 - 12/12/2019		< 1 meter	RGB, NIR (450-900 nm), Panchromatic	
Spire Global, Inc	GNSS Radio Occultation, GNSS Grazing Angle Reflectometry, Satellite Precise Orbit Determination (POD) and Satellite Attitude, Total Electron Content, Ionospheric Profiles, Scintillation, Magnetometer, Raw IF	9/24/2018 - 4/18/2019 (partial) 11/1/2019 - Present (all)	GNSS-R and GNSS-RO receivers satellites: 37° and Sun Synchronous			
Maxar Technologies	Worldview 1-4, GeoEye-1, QuickBird, IKONOS	10/24/1999 - Present	Sun Synchronous	0.31 - 4.0 meters	Multispectral and Panchromatic (400 - 2245 nm)	
Teledyne Brown Engineering, Inc.	DESI L1B, L1C, and L2A	11/21/2018 - Present	Non Sun Synchronous 52° N - 55° S (ISS)	30 meters	235 channels, 2.5nm from 402 to 1000 nm	
EarthDEM	individual strips and mosaics	2009 - Present		2 meters		

# End User License Agreements Tiered Approach

Authorized User Community	Type of EULA		
	Public Release	U.S.G. Plus	U.S.G.
U.S. Federal Government including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. State/Local/Tribal Government; Contractors and Grantees associated with Government Agency</li> </ul>			X
U. S Federal Government, Foreign Civil Partners		X	X
Public Release	X	X	X

Scientific Non-Commercial Use License

Utilize the tiered EULA approach to satisfy other agency commercial data request via *SNWG Assessment Process*.

Tiered EULA approach is modeled after NRO's family of EULAs



# NASA Satellite Needs Working Group

White House National Science and Technology Council  
 U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO)  
**Satellite Needs Working Group (SNWG)**

**Distribute Survey**  
**Gather Inputs**  
**The 20XX Cycle: Assessment**

**Congressional Appropriations and Selections**

**The 20XX Cycle: Solutions**

**Implementation and Stakeholder Engagement**

**Sustained Operations**



**SNWG Management Office Roles**

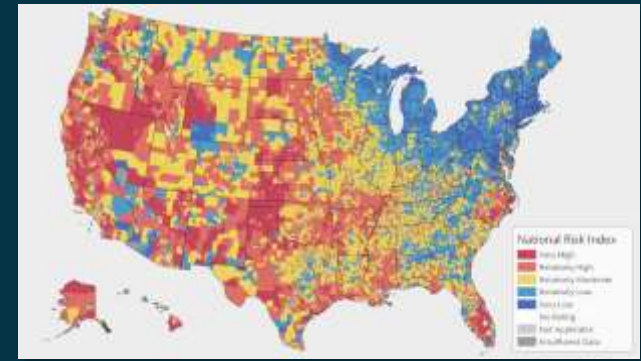
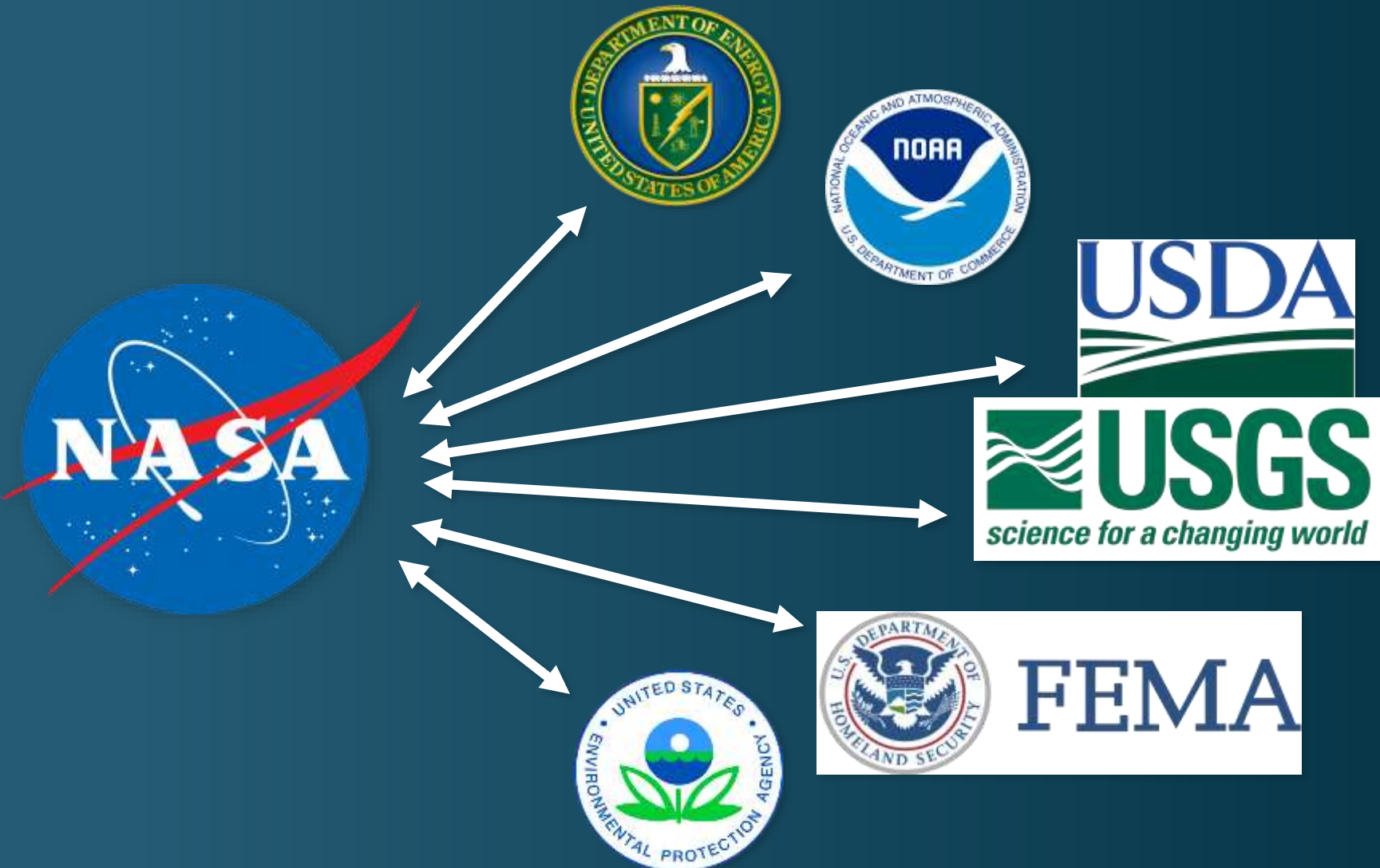


**Lessons Learned**  
**Next Survey**  
**New Opportunities**

**New Solutions for Agencies**



# NASA Science Enables Operational Services Across the USG



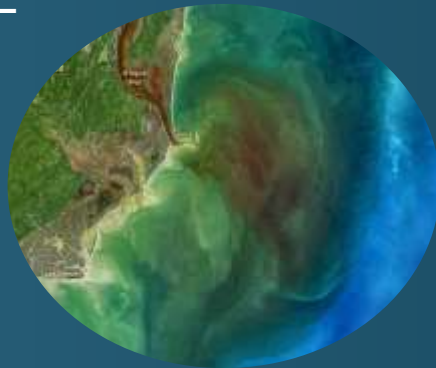
**Land accounting:**  
USGS/NASA Land use  
data sets



**Water accounting:**  
OpenET (Landsat, Sentinel,  
GOES), GRACE/GRACE-FO,  
SMAP, SWOT



**Ocean accounting:**  
PACE



# Earth Observation contributions to Natural Capital Accounting

**Ecosystem condition  
accounting:**  
MODIS (multiple products)



**Forest accounting:**  
LIDAR products (GEDI),  
Radar (NISAR),  
thermal RS for wildfire

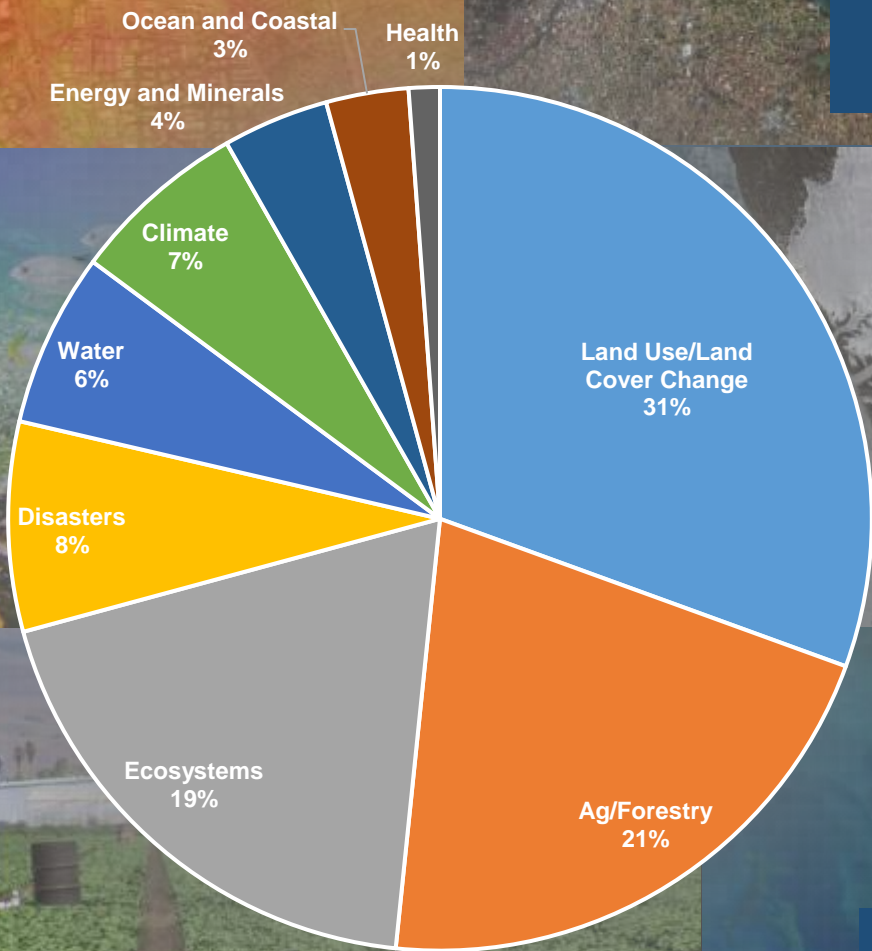


**Health-related aspects  
of NCA:**  
TEMPO, MAIA



# Landsat Applications

**Landsat is the single most-used land imaging data set by U.S. Federal users and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in societal benefit impact (behind GPS) of 1300 Earth observation systems**



- Federal Agencies (e.g. DOI, USDA, EPA, NASA, DOD, NOAA, State, USAID)
- State Agencies (planning, natural resources, Transportation)
- University Researchers and Educators
- International Organizations (e.g., UN agencies, GEO)
- Non Governmental Organizations (e.g., The Nature Conservancy, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund, Resources for the Future)
- Commercial (e.g., Exxon-Mobil, MapBox, Descartes Labs, Esri, Gallo, Harris Corp, ITT, MDA Federal)
- Foreign space agencies
- U.S. and foreign commercial satellite operators
- Cloud Service Providers (e.g. Amazon Web Services, Google Earth Engine)
- General Public

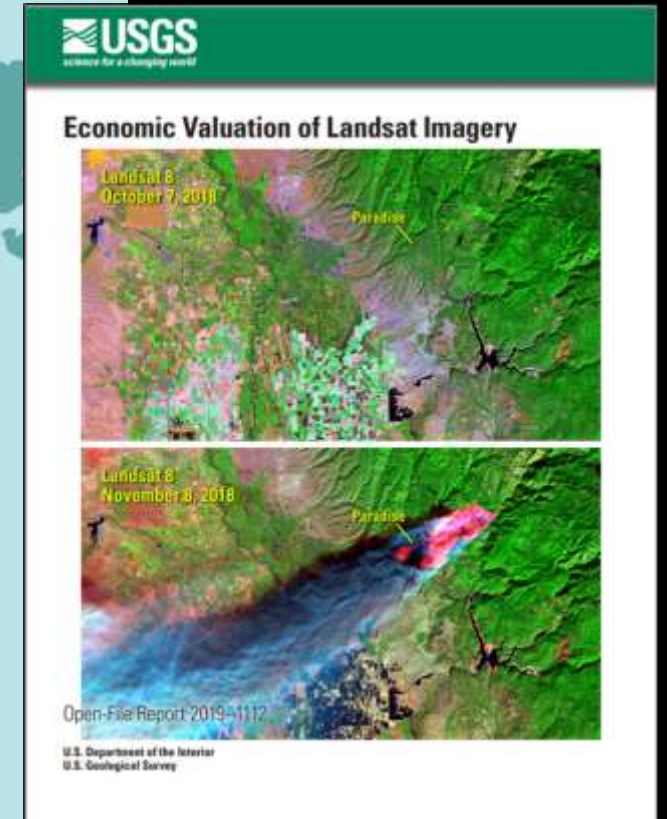
**Supports Federal, state, local, tribal, academic, commercial, non-profit, and international use**



# Landsat Economic Benefit

“The economic value of just one year of Landsat data far exceeds the multi-year total cost of building, launching, and managing Landsat satellites and sensors”

Earth Imaging Journal article (2015)



**Economic Valuation of Landsat Imagery**  
 Open-File Report 2019-1112  
 Crista L. Straub, Stephen R. Koontz, and John B. Loomis  
<https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20191112>



**NASA EARTH**  
Your Home. Our Mission.