

<p style="text-align: center;">National Earth Observation Group Geoscience Australia</p>

Portfolio or Agency mission/charter

- Informed government, industry and community decision on the economic, social and environmental management of the nation's natural resources through enabling access to geoscientific and spatial information.

Key objective/s with respect to space-related activity

- To maximise the value that Australia derives from its investment in Earth observation infrastructure and systems.
- To provide timely access to a range of quality Earth observation data products and information for Australia and its region.

Current space-related activities/responsibilities

- Geoscience Australia's National Earth Observation Group (NEO) provides spatial information to the Australian Government and community to enable informed decisions on key issues such as the environment and community safety. NEO applies leading-edge processing and scientific analysis to extract and deliver information, contributing to the prosperity and sustainability of the Australian community.
- NEO manages reception, archiving, processing and distribution of satellite-based remote sensing data of Australia and its Territories. NEO downlinks satellite data from a number of international remote sensing missions. Data are archived for long-term use and processed to provide information relevant to national issues and priorities.
- The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency is establishing a new satellite ground station near Darwin. Geoscience Australia is currently providing technical support for this activity.
- Geoscience Australia is developing an improved data store that will allow faster and simpler access to the NEO archive of Earth observation data.
- Geoscience Australia operates the National Geospatial Reference Systems which underpin Global Navigation Satellite Systems in Australia.

Recent major achievements

- The National Ground Control Point (GCP) project carried out in 2009-10 will allow satellite images to be accurately and consistently 'registered' to locations on the ground.

- New satellite derived shallow water bathymetry methods have been developed and utilised for climate adaptation and emergency planning.
- The archive of data held by NEO, founded in 1979 and containing over 623,000 images, is continually being used to provide accurate information about environmental change in Australia. In particular, the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has used Earth Observation Data from Geoscience Australia in calculations for the International Forest Carbon Initiative.
- NEO operates the online Sentinel near real time hotspot monitoring system. NEO continues to feed near real time satellite imagery (within 40 minutes of acquisition) into the system. Sentinel was developed in collaboration with CSIRO and the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation and provides location and descriptive information across the entire country for active bushfires on a daily basis.

Portfolio/Agency expenditure on space-related activity

- In 2008-09, GA received \$5.23 m (Net) for its program administration of remote sensing.
- In 2008-09, GA received \$1.190 m for the sale of remote sensing data to Government and private organisations.

Legislation administered by portfolio/agency

- Nil

International space-related agreements

- MOU with United States Geological Survey (USGS) for access to Landsat data reception in Australia. This agreement has also been amended to provide for support of downlinking of onboard data for USGS.
- MOU with JAXA for Geoscience Australia to act as the Oceania ALOS Data Node. This MOU expires on 22 December 2010.
- Agreement with the Japanese Earth Remote Sensing Data Analysis Centre (ERSDAC) to distribute ASTER satellite data.
- An informal agreement with RADARSAT International continues to allow Geoscience Australia to acquire and distribute RADARSAT imagery in Australia.
- Informal agreement with NASA / USGS for distribution of Hyperion and ALI data from the EO-1 satellite.
- Agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation to receive Indian Resource Satellite (IRS-P6) Data over Australia.

Portfolio/Agency involvement in other space-related agreement/arrangements

- Participation in the CRC on Spatial Information.
- Managing and operating the Tasmanian Earth Resource Satellite Station (TERSS) on behalf of the TERSS board, of which Geoscience Australia is a member; membership comprises Australian government agencies and academic institutions.
- A member of the Western Australian Satellite Technology and Applications Consortium (WASTAC).

Contact

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