WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

EOSDIS Team

For outstanding sustained contributions to Earth science data worldwide

NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) was established in 1994, to ensure the Earth Observing System missions and other Earth science data were ingested, archived, and distributed to users. Performing at the highest levels of effectiveness over many years, the EOSDIS Team developed and operated the EOSDIS, by successfully providing a vast archive of Earth observations data to an exceedingly broad and dynamic user community.

The challenges of developing the EOSDIS were not just those of engineering a system to handle vast amounts of data, but also those of responding to the breadth and diversity of the user community. The EOSDIS supports an immense range of scientific users, from land processes and cryosphere to ocean biology, physical oceanography, atmospheric composition and dynamics, and others working to answer important questions about Earth systems and global change. The EOSDIS data also support applications, including numerical weather and climate prediction, forecasting and monitoring of natural hazards, mapping invasive species, fire detection, agriculture, air quality, disaster relief, and homeland security.

The EOSDIS manages the vast majority of NASA's Earth science data, including not only data from over a dozen satellites, but also from airborne campaigns, field experiments, instruments on the International Space Station, model outputs, and other sources. As of 2014, the EOSDIS archives included over 9 petabytes of data from 8,000 types of datasets. Distribution to the user community exceeded one billion files, averaging over 27 terabytes a day. The list of scientific publications and citations resulting from data provided by the EOSDIS has grown steadily. The EOSDIS team, including the Distributed Active Archive Centers, also participates in and provides leadership to U.S. and international organizations, resulting in data exchanges as well as cooperative data access that benefit remote sensing, science, and science applications worldwide. The EOSDIS now serves millions of users.

For 20 years, the EOSDIS has been a shining example, providing free, open, and timely data access to users around the world. The sustained service that the EOSDIS team has provided to users of remote-sensing data worldwide and the impact that the EOSDIS has had on the science and applications of remote sensing, fully embody the ideals of the William T. Pecora Award.

Secretary
Department of the Interior

Administrator
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration