

RADIO OCCULTATION IN NOAA'S NEXT- GENERATION ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION ARCHITECTURE

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Beginning with the COSMIC-1 and continuing to present international government and commercial missions, NOAA has assimilated Radio Occultation (RO) data into operational weather models. Contemporary RO data is also assimilated into space weather models to assist in space weather impact prediction. For weather, climate and space weather, RO is recognized as an integral and essential measurement type by the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS). This presentation will discuss the provision of RO data in NOAA's future satellite observing architecture. NESDIS has set an objective to provide RO observations with global spatial distribution and regionally with good temporal distribution. NESDIS anticipates that up to half of the observations will be made with government deployed assets and the remainder through competitively selected commercial providers. NESDIS will continue to engage with the users of RO data to understand their validated needs and new applications. NESDIS will also engage with the developers of RO instrumentation to understand how this crucial measurement type can be improved and extended.