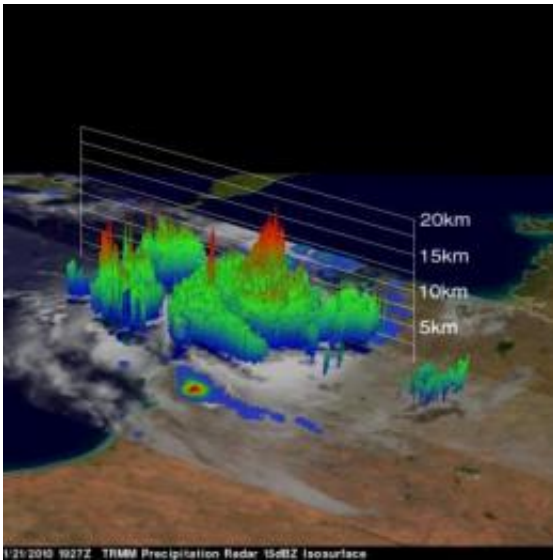# TRMM satellite doesn't need 3-D glasses for Magda

January 22 2010

The TRMM precipitation analysis showed Magda was dropping about 2 inches of rainfall per hour west of the eye, and some of the intense thunderstorms near the eye were as high as 16 kilometers (~52,493 feet). Credit: NASA/SSAI/Hal Pierce

People may need 3-D glasses to see life-like images, but rainfall and cloud data from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission or TRMM satellite gives scientists a three-dimensional look at tropical cyclones without the glasses.

TRMM passed over tropical cyclone Magda on January 21 at 1927 UTC (2:27 p.m. ET) when it was off Western Australia's northern coast and

soon to make landfall TRMM captured a look at its rainfall and cloud heights. That data was used to create a 3-D image of how high Magda's clouds were, and how heavily the rain was falling within the storm.

The TRMM rainfall analysis is derived from TRMM's Precipitation Radar (PR) and [TRMM Microwave Imager](#) instruments (TMI). It revealed that Magda had developed an eye before coming ashore with hurricane force winds. TRMM also showed that there were powerful thunderstorms were dropping rainfall at a rate greater than 50mm per hour (~2 inches per hour) in an area west of the eye.

TRMM's 3-D perspective of Magda showed that some of the intense thunderstorms near its eye reached to heights above 16 kilometers (~52,493 feet). Magda has since moved inland and is forecast to dissipate in Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert. TRMM is managed by [NASA](#) and JAXA, the Japanese Space Agency.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center