

First JPSS-1 satellite instrument is ready for installation

April 25 2014, by John Leslie



JPSS-1, NOAA's next polar orbiting environmental satellite. Credit: Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.

The first of five instruments that will fly on JPSS-1, NOAA's next polar orbiting environmental satellite, successfully completed pre-shipment review last week. The Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System

(CERES) will be on board the JPSS-1 satellite mission scheduled to launch in early 2017.

CERES measures reflected sunlight and thermal radiation emitted by the Earth and builds on the highly successful legacy instruments flown on NOAA's previous Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES) and NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) missions.

"CERES is the first JPSS-1 instrument to reach this important milestone, and the others are not far behind," said Mary Kicza, assistant administrator for NOAA's Satellite and Information Service. "We're on track to have JPSS-1 ready to launch in 2017, adding to a robust [satellite](#) fleet that provides vital environmental intelligence for the nation and the world."

Long-term satellite data from CERES will help scientists and researchers understand the links between the Earth's energy balance, both incoming and outgoing, and parts of the atmosphere that affect it. Data from CERES will also improve observations of seasonal climate forecasts, including large-scale events like El Niño and La Niña. The CERES instrument is built by Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems in Redondo Beach, Calif., and will be shipped to Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. in Boulder, Colo., to be installed onto the JPSS-1 spacecraft.



CERES instrument during testing at Northrop Grumman's manufacturing facility in Redondo Beach, Calif. Credit: Northrop Grumman Corporation

JPSS is a collaboration between NOAA and NASA, and ensures continuous critical, global Earth observations including atmosphere, clouds, oceans, snow, ice, ozone and vegetation. NOAA's National Weather Service uses JPSS data as a critical input for numerical forecast models, providing the basis for mid-range forecasts three to seven days ahead of a severe weather event. JPSS data also contribute to operational forecasting in polar regions including Alaska and support long-term forecasting. JPSS also enables scientists and forecasters to monitor and predict weather patterns with greater accuracy and to study long-term climate trends by extending the more than 30-year satellite data record.

Four instruments for JPSS-1 are yet to be delivered:

- the Advanced Technology Microwave Sounder (ATMS) and

Cross-track Infrared Sounder (CrIS) work closely together to provide atmospheric and temperature profiles for weather forecasting

- the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS), which creates high-resolution imagery of the atmosphere using visible and infrared channels
- OMPS, or the Ozone Mapping and Profiler Suite, which measures ozone concentration in the atmosphere and provides significant input to the numerical forecast models.

Provided by NOAA Headquarters

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