

Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) to supply infrared data for developers

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Credit: Lockheed Martin

For the first time, infrared data from the Lockheed Martin-built Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) will be made available for new military and civilian uses at the Air Force's recently opened data utilization lab in

Boulder, Colorado.

While SBIRS' primary mission is strategic missile warning, the system can support a wide range of research and development projects across the field of remote sensing, which is the monitoring, observing and gathering of information on the Earth and atmosphere from space.

"SBIRS uses powerful overhead sensors that collect and transmit significant amounts of [infrared data](#)," said David Sheridan, vice president of Lockheed Martin's Overhead Persistent Infrared (OPIR) systems mission area. "By giving researchers access to this data, our objective is for them to find new, innovative uses for improving situational awareness—whether it is for tactical military missions, natural disasters or even firefighting."

In the past year, the Air Force has seen a growing demand from the military, intelligence and civil communities, as well as academia, for [remote sensing](#) capabilities. For areas like battlespace awareness, intelligence and 24/7 tactical alerts, promising solutions developed in the lab will be considered for operational applications at the SBIRS Mission Control Station, OPIR Battlespace Awareness Center at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado.

"In an effort to develop, test and transition new or enhanced capabilities, the data utilization lab will provide an opportunity for users, data consumers and third-party developers to access these sensor feeds—providing an open framework architecture to host new tools, algorithms and processing solutions," said Lt. Colonel Ross Johnston of the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center.

Along with government and industry teams, academic organizations like the University of Colorado will use the data provided by the lab to facilitate collaboration and support research in areas that include

monitoring the Earth's surface to determine the potential for forest fires or informing critical decisions during active fires.

"The benefit of having public-private partnerships is that we can bring together different stakeholders, in addition to doing research, and understand how we can use data from space assets to solve societal issues," said Scott Palo, associate dean for research at the University of Colorado's College of Engineering and Applied Science. "We can also provide opportunities for students, as well as small and medium-sized businesses, to connect with industry and government and develop a broader vision that we can all build upon."

More information: For more information about SBIRS, visit: www.lockheedmartin.com/sbirs

Provided by Lockheed Martin

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