

NASA's GOLD powers on for the first time

January 29 2018, by Rob Garner



Illustration of SES-14, a commercial communications satellite that carries NASA's GOLD instrument. Credit: NASA Goddard's Conceptual Image Lab/Chris Meaney

NASA's Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk, or GOLD, mission powered on the GOLD instrument for the first time after launch on Jan. 28, 7:23 p.m. EST.

The systems engineers successfully established communication with the

GOLD instrument and its detector doors opened when commanded. After their tests, the engineers powered off the instrument the same day, at 7:40 p.m. EST. The instrument will remain powered off until its host satellite, SES-14, reaches [geostationary orbit](#) and GOLD operations commence later this year.

GOLD will investigate the dynamic intermingling of space and Earth's uppermost atmosphere and seek to understand what drives change in this critical region. Resulting data will improve forecasting models of the [space weather events](#) that can impact life on Earth, as well as satellites and astronauts in space.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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