No. 50697

United States of America
and
European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites

Agreement between the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites on an initial joint polar-orbiting operational satellite system (with annex). Washington, 19 November 1998

Entry into force: *19 November 1998 by signature, in accordance with article 14*

Authentic text: *English*

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États-Unis d'Amérique
et
Organisation européenne pour l'exploitation de satellites météorologiques

Accord entre l'Administration nationale des océans et de l'atmosphère des États-Unis et l'Organisation européenne pour l'exploitation de satellites météorologiques relatif à un système initial conjoint de satellites opérationnels en orbite polaire (avec annexe). Washington, 19 novembre 1998

Entrée en vigueur : *19 novembre 1998 par signature, conformément à l'article 14*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

AND

THE EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES

ON

AN INITIAL JOINT POLAR-ORBITING OPERATIONAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

PREAMBLE

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (hereinafter referred to as "NOAA"), representing the interests of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Defense, and other interested U.S. Government agencies,

and

The European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites established by the Convention opened for signature in Geneva on May 24, 1983 and entered into force on June 19, 1986, (hereinafter referred to as "EUMETSAT"),

RECALLING that EUMETSAT and NOAA have enjoyed long-standing and fruitful cooperation in the field of Earth observation, witnessed by their cooperation in the development and operation of geostationary meteorological satellites,

RECALLING that EUMETSAT is responsible for the European METEOSAT Geostationary Satellite System and desires to make a contribution to a worldwide polar-orbiting operational system,

RECALLING that NOAA has launched and operates polar-orbiting operational satellites, which have unique Earth-observing capabilities, and has provided data from these satellites for worldwide use for thirty years,

RECOGNIZING the essential role environmental satellite data, particularly imaging and sounding, have had in global weather forecasting, and the importance of these data to research on climate change and other sectors of the global Earth observation and science user communities,

RECOGNIZING specifically the need to maintain continuity of these global environmental measurements from space-borne instruments in polar orbit,

RECOGNIZING the benefits to the meteorological, scientific, and applications communities in having rapid access to the data of these missions,

RECOGNIZING the need to promote the effective use of data from space for global climate change research and environmental monitoring,

NOTING the Agreement for Cooperation concerning the EUMETSAT Polar System and the ESA METOP-1 Programme between EUMETSAT and ESA and the EUMETSAT/Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) Agreement for ARGOS for METOP-1 and METOP-2,

NOTING the Memorandum of Agreement among the Governments of the U.S., Canada and France concerning cooperation in a Search and Rescue Satellite System of September 11, 1995, and the Memorandum of Understanding between NOAA and CNES for the ARGOS Data Collection and Platform Location System of March 26, 1986 as amended for NOAA-N and NOAA-N',

NOTING the existing commitments of the United States, and several European States, to the Search and Rescue Program and that Program's long association with the operational polar-orbiting satellites,

NOTING that the United Kingdom Meteorological Office has contributed the Stratospheric Sounding Unit for flight on the NOAA polar-orbiting operational satellites since 1978 and shall provide the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit-B for flight on NOAA K, L and M polar-orbiting operational satellites, as agreed to in the Memorandum of Understanding between NOAA and the Meteorological Office of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence of February 14, 1986,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
PURPOSE

1.1 This Agreement defines the terms of cooperation between NOAA and EUMETSAT, jointly referred to as the Parties, relating to an initial Joint Polar System (referred hereinafter as IJPS or IJP System) comprising two series of Joint Polar-orbiting Satellites and their respective Ground Segments. The purpose of this cooperation is to continue and improve the operational meteorological and environmental forecasting and global climate monitoring services of the Parties and thereby contribute to the wider objectives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)Global Observing System, the Global Climate Observing System, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and other related programs. The IJP System addressed in this Agreement is intended to provide long-term continuity of observations from polar orbit, furnished by the United States since April 1, 1960.

1.2 Under the terms of this Agreement, NOAA shall provide spacecraft for flight in afternoon orbit and instruments for both NOAA and EUMETSAT spacecraft. NOAA shall make available global IJPS data acquired in the United States to EUMETSAT. EUMETSAT shall make available EUMETSAT spacecraft for flight in mid-morning orbit and instruments for both EUMETSAT and NOAA spacecraft. EUMETSAT shall make available global IJPS data acquired in Europe to NOAA.

Article 2
FUTURE COOPERATION

The Parties to this Agreement recognize the benefit to operational meteorological and environmental forecasting and global climate monitoring services of ensuring continuity beyond the current initial satellite series.

The Parties shall continue planning to extend the respective satellite series and to continue the uninterrupted availability of data from the system and generally to improve polar observations beyond the satellite system described in Article 3.

Article 3
GENERAL SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The IJP System consists of the following major elements: EUMETSAT and NOAA spacecraft, instrumentation, and ground segments. The spacecraft and instrumentation together are referred to as the satellite. A general description of these major elements is provided below.

3.1 SPACECRAFT

The spacecraft covered by this Agreement consists of the following two series of operational spacecraft that maintain complementary polar orbits with morning and afternoon equatorial crossing times:

3.1.1 NOAA SERIES

NOAA N and N' to be flown consecutively in an orbit with an afternoon equatorial crossing time (hereinafter "the NOAA spacecraft").

3.1.2 EUROPEAN SERIES

METOP 1 and METOP 2 to be flown consecutively in an orbit with a mid-morning equatorial crossing time (hereinafter "the EUMETSAT spacecraft").

3.2 INSTRUMENTATION

The IJPS payload consists of two elements: a payload common to both spacecraft and an additional payload, which is different on both spacecraft.

3.2.1 The common payload instruments to be provided by NOAA for the NOAA and EUMETSAT spacecraft consists of the:

1) Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR);
2) High-Resolution Infrared Sounder (HIRS);
3) Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU-A);
4) Space Environment Monitor (SEM);
5) Satellite-Aided Search and Rescue instrument (SARSAT).

The additional payload instrument to be provided by NOAA for the NOAA spacecraft is the Solar Backscatter Ultra Violet monitor (SBUV).

3.2.2 The common payload instrument to be provided by EUMETSAT for the NOAA and EUMETSAT spacecraft is the Microwave Humidity Sounder (MHS).

The additional payload instruments to be provided by EUMETSAT for flight on the EUMETSAT spacecraft consist of the: