



NOAA SATELLITES AND INFORMATION SERVICE

COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING LICENSING & ENFORCEMENT



The National Requirement: The Nation requires a consistent and transparent regulatory process pursuant to the 2003 US Commercial Remote Sensing Space Policy by which commercial remote sensing license applications will be processed in a timely manner while preserving US national security and foreign policies.

NOAA's Response: To meet this requirement, the Department of Commerce through NOAA, works closely with other US Government and industry stakeholders to implement a comprehensive program for commercial remote sensing licensing and enforcement. NOAA supports the policy-making process for commercial remote sensing, through its participation in a National Security Council-chaired working group, and its implementation of relevant Presidential Decision Directives. NOAA also manages the Federal Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing which advises the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on short- and long-range strategies for licensing commercial systems. During national security or foreign policy crises, the Secretary of Commerce, through consultation with the Secretary of Defense and/or the Secretary of State, may request that NOAA exercise limitations over licensees' routine commercial operations. To ensure that these advanced space systems are operated lawfully to preserve US national security and foreign policies, NOAA conducts end-to-end monitoring and compliance programs with industry. These programs include pre-launch reviews, comprehensive audits and inspections, and quarterly reporting requirements.

To date, 20 licenses have been issued, along with 40 license amendments, and 29 foreign agreements have been approved. NOAA oversees technical analyses and supports efforts to better characterize the remote-sensing market and foreign commercial availability of these sensitive technologies. Currently the estimated market for US-based remote sensing imagery and services stands at \$3.0 billion, with a rise to \$5 billion expected by 2010, and \$6 billion by 2012. US companies will provide new products and services, and intend to play a key role in next generation US defense and intelligence programs. The US national interest requires an international leadership position in commercial satellite remote sensing. A vigorous US commercial remote sensing industry supports critical US national security, foreign policy, and homeland security requirements, and advances our economic and technological interests worldwide.

Partners and Customers: The services provided by this function are geared towards the commercial space industry. Critical partners include civil, foreign policy, military, and intelligence agencies of the U.S. Government.

Financing: The FY 2004 Budget requests **\$1.246 million** for the Commercial Remote Sensing Licensing Program to implement the commercial remote-sensing licensing and enforcement program, work with the Advisory Committee, support technical and policy studies, and implement its responsibilities under the 2003 Commercial Remote Sensing Space Policy.

For additional information: www.licensing.noaa.gov and www.nesdis.noaa.gov