

NOAA's Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs

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Facts & Figures

For Calendar Year 2016

- The Upward Trend Continues as Interest in Space Explodes
- Licensing
 - 41 Application Requests Received (173% increase from 2015)
 - 14 New Licenses Issued (27% increase from 2015)
 - Total Actions: 33 (136% increase from 2015)
- Ground Stations
 - 102 Sites Operational End of 2016 (23% increase from 2015)
 - 108 Current Sites—99 Locations
 - 5 Sites Pending Approval
 - 15 Additional Sites Anticipated by end of CY 2017
 - 9 New Countries Added to the Inspections List
- Satellites
 - 180 satellites currently on orbit



2017 Licensing Activities

- This year NOAA Licensing has so far:
 - Received 19 application requests
 - Currently processing 16 actions (Actions include new licenses, license amendments, waivers, and foreign agreements)

- Welcome new member of the team, Kera Bumbray

- Enhancements to Process
 - Submit new mission requests via new digital Initial Contact Form
 - Working on website improvements to licensing pages
 - Mailed applications should be addressed to Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs, not NESDIS

- Changes in Licensing Standards



2017 Compliance Activities

- This year NOAA Compliance has so far:
 - Processed 6 Data Protection Plan Actions
 - Completed FY17 Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 Audits
 - Sent out requests for Annual Audits
 - Completed 6 Inspections
 - Anticipate completing 19 additional inspections by end of 2017

- Enhancements to Process
 - Moving from mail/fax to email and from paper to digital

- Shift from Inspections to Compliance-Focused Data Protection



Challenges

Reporting Requirements

- Foreign Ownership
 - NOAA License: Ownership greater than 5%
 - NOAA Notification: Foreign Agreements as defined in CFR 960.8
- Ground Stations
 - NOAA Approval: New ground stations/terminals
 - NOAA Notification: Change in Operating Status
- Launch
 - NOAA License: A change in launch vehicle or date
 - NOAA Notification: Satellite tracking and/or status
- Confidentiality
 - NOAA is bound by the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC 1905
 - NOAA Notifications: Technological developments and future projects



Challenges

Global Partnerships

- Operating Foreign Owned Satellites
 - NOAA Requirements: a remote sensing licensing, and a foreign agreement
- Turn-Key Systems
 - NOAA Requirements: a remote sensing licensing, and a foreign agreement
 - USG Requirements: Export approvals
- Dual Regulation
 - Bi-Lateral Requirements: a NOAA license does not waive legal requirements in other nations



Questions?

