NOAA’s Radio Occultation Architecture: Current Status and Future Plans

Vanessa Griffin, Director, Office of Systems Architecture and Advanced Planning
Richard Ullman, Deputy Director, Office of Projects, Planning and Analysis

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
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Meeting the Objectives of Today & Tomorrow: Desired Features of NOAA’S New Architecture

**ATTRIBUTES OF HIGH-VALUE FRONTIER**

Mix of observations with higher mission impact
- Small and medium platforms
- Enhanced imagery and high-latitude coverage
- New & more observations

More agility
- Disaggregated LEO – smaller building blocks
- Onramps for new technologies
- Evolving partner observations

New business models
- Data purchases, ride shares, hosted payloads
- Commercial communication & data-relay services
- Instruments of opportunity
NOAA’s Long Term R/O Objectives: 20,000

NOSC endorsed IROWG-6 goal of 20,000 occultations a day. NSOSA established threshold of 5,000 globally distributed occultations daily at highest quality and availability. Remaining daily observations more flexibility in performance, availability and geographic distribution.

Long-term: Obtain ~20,000 daily occultations from NOAA sounder sats in LEO, NASA Sentinel-6/MF, EUMETSAT, other international partner and commercial.

Today: NOAA obtains ~5,000 occultations daily from COSMIC-2 and leverages RO from METOP, Kompasat and PAZ.
Near Term: Obtaining 5,000 Daily Occultations

• When fully operational, COSMIC-2 to provide ~5,000 high-quality daily RO soundings – a threshold established by NSOSA.

• NOAA will continue to leverage “missions of opportunity“ to fill out polar regions.

• Initiated commercial RO data for operational use.
Medium Term: Build a Foundation in NOAA’s LEO Program

NOAA’s LEO Program Priorities:
• A foundation of sounder satellites
• Small to medium-sized instruments

Industry awards to explore design & capability options:
• Sounding instruments (MW, infrared, RO)
  – Commercial services
  – Multi-orbit coverage
  – Risk tolerance and observing system risk management

NOAA to leverage data from commercial vendors and strategic partners, add data from RO sensors on NOAA (and other USGS) satellites.
Long Term: Augmenting High-Quality RO

• NOAA to continue operating a base of NOAA LEO satellites dedicated to soundings, including high-quality RO

• Other NOAA satellites, ongoing partnership with EUMETSAT, to provide “backbone” set of global measurements to satisfy threshold requirements

• NOAA to augment this base with high-quality RO data from other international partners coming online in 2020s (JasonCS/Sentinel-6 follow-on) and commercial data when available
THANK YOU