

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 02/16/2011

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 12/15/2010

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201012-0648-009
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: NOAA Space-Based Data Collection System (DCS) Agreements
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0157
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 02/28/2014 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	390	440	487
New	415	470	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	25	30	-487
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Data Collection System Agreement	NA	GOES DCS System Use Agreement	
Argos Data Collection System Technical Information	NA	ARGOS System Use Agreement	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
7. Title	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
9. Keywords	10. Abstract
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
NOAA SPACE-BASED DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM (DCS) AGREEMENTS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0157

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This request is for renewal of the information collection.

NOAA operates two space-based data collection systems: the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Data Collection System (GOES DCS) and the Argos Data Collection System (Argos DCS), which is flown aboard NOAA's Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES). Both the GOES DCS and the Argos DCS are operated to support environmental applications, e.g., meteorology, oceanography, hydrology, ecology, and remote sensing of Earth resources. In addition, the Argos DCS currently supports applications related to protection of the environment, e.g., hazardous material tracking, fishing vessel tracking for treaty enforcement, animal tracking, and oil and gas pipeline monitoring to prevent leakage. Presently, the majority of users of these systems are government agencies and researchers and, in fact, much of the data collected by both the GOES DCS and the Argos DCS are provided to the World Meteorological Organization via the Global Telecommunications System for inclusion in the World Weather Watch Program. Current loading on both of the systems does not use the entire capacity of that system, so NOAA is able to make its excess capacity available to other users who meet certain criteria (see Question 2 below). Accepted applicants use the NOAA DCS to collect environmental data and in limited cases, non-environmental data via the Argos DCS, to support other governmental and non-governmental research or operational requirements, such as for law enforcement purposes.

Regulations explain not only the policy for using the GOES DCS, but also how users may use the Argos DCS. These regulations ensure that the Government will not allow its space-based data collection systems to be used where there are commercial services available that fulfill users' requirements. The regulations contain the minimum information requirements necessary to determine if a user meets these criteria. NOAA enters into an agreement with accepted applicants and gives them access to the system.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

Applications are made in response to the requirements in [15 CFR 911](#) (under the authority of [15 U.S. C. 313, Duties of the Secretary of Commerce](#) and others), using system use agreement (SUA) forms. The application information received is used to determine if the applicant meets the criteria for use of the system. The system use agreements contain the following information:

(1) the period of time the agreement is valid and procedures for its termination, (2) the authorized use(s) of the DCS, and its priorities for use, (3) the extent of the availability of commercial services which met the user's requirements and the reasons for choosing the government system, (4) any applicable government interest in the data, (5) required equipment standards, (6) standards of operation, (7) conformance with applicable International Telecommunication Union (ITU)and FCC agreements and regulations, (8) reporting time and frequencies, (9) data formats, (10) data delivery systems and schedules and (11) user-borne costs.

For both systems, an important prerequisite in reviewing applications for use is that there are no commercial space-based services available which meet the users' requirements in terms of satellite coverage, accuracy, data throughput, platform power consumption, size and weight, platform compatibility, service continuity and reliability. The GOES DCS can be used only for environmental purposes and the user needs to be a government agency or sponsored by one for use, while the Argos DCS can be used for environmental and some very limited non-environmental purposes. The non-environmental use of the Argos system is primarily authorized for government users, for such applications as humanitarian cargo tracking, law enforcement, or national security purposes. For non-governmental, environmental use of the Argos system, a prerequisite has been added that there must be a government interest in the collection of the data. This prerequisite is similar to, but not the same, as the current GOES DCS sponsorship requirement.

Moreover, only government and non-profit users may be allowed to use the Argos DCS for non-environmental uses, except in cases where there is a significant possibility of the loss of life. However, at no time will non-environmental use of the Argos DCS exceed five percent of the system's total use. These criteria are necessary because neither system is intended to compete with private sector services. Details concerning the use of the data are also necessary to rank system use. A standard part of the system use agreement with accepted applicants is that the user must provide free and open access to the data by U.S. Government agencies.

The GOES DCS is managed solely by NOAA; as a result, the collection of information required is greater than for the Argos DCS, which is managed cooperatively with the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), the French Government space agency. As a result of the cooperative nature of the Argos DCS, CNES handles more of the daily administration of the system, and thus NOAA does not require the same information from users of the Argos DCS that it requires from users of the GOES DCS. The system use agreement is under the care of the CNES, and NOAA is responsible for collecting the technical information.

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

System use agreements are available from a Web site (<http://noaasis.noaa.gov/DCS>) and can be e-mailed to Letecia Reeves@noaa.gov, or faxed to 301-817-4569. An automated electronic submission system for ingesting use requests has been in use for several years for Argos. The automated system for the GOES DCS has been on hold due to support issues. The number of applications for the GOES DCS is much smaller than for Argos, and is therefore less of a processing burden. We hope to have the GOES system online within the next year. The Argos System Use Agreements are processed by a private company representing the French Government, and are sent via email into NOAA's online system.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The information collected relates to a unique benefit and no duplication has been identified.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

While small businesses may be respondents, the collection would not have any significant impact upon them and the information requested is the minimum needed to make the necessary determinations.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

If the collection was not conducted, NOAA could not allow potential users access to the system, which would be to the detriment of those potential users and the government agency using their data or services. The term of system use agreements for use of the GOES DCS is five years; for use of the Argos DCS the term is three years. These terms are necessary to ensure that users will periodically canvass the marketplace to determine whether commercial services have developed the capabilities to meet their requirements.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The collection is consistent with the OMB guidelines.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice, published on September 28, 2010 (75 FR 59686), solicited public comment on this collection. None was received.

The program managers for the GOES and Argos DCS consult with users at conferences held annually at a minimum and usually more frequently.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are made to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

No confidentiality is promised or provided.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No sensitive questions are asked.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

The estimated burden for the NOAA DCS is calculated as follows:

	GOES	Argos	Totals
Number of respondents	50	365	415
Number of responses per respondent	1	1	
Total annual responses	50	365	415
Time per response	2 hours and six minutes	1 hour	
Total annual burden hours for collection	105	365	470

Estimating respondent time at \$40 an hour, respondent costs would be \$18,800.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

The estimated operational cost for reporting and record-keeping is \$0.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

The annual cost to the Federal Government to process the information obtained is estimated at \$1,000 for IT support and personnel costs.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

Adjustments: The burden to the public has increased slightly due to more applications being received (i.e. more use of the system). Thus, although the reporting time for the GOES form has been corrected from 3 hours to 2 hours, 6 minutes, there is a net burden increase. Finally, there is no virtually no submission cost as almost all forms are emailed.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The results of the collection will not be published.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

NOAA requests an exemption from displaying the OMB control number and expiration data on the Argos DCS System Use Agreement itself, and will include it on an insert that contains the other PRA information. The Argos DCS is operated through a cooperative program between the United States and France. The French have requested that the PRA guidance be less conspicuous on the form.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

NA.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

Technical Information Form / Informations techniques

■ Date

> Please, fill in one form by type of platform
Veuillez remplir un formulaire par type de plate-forme

■ Program information / Information sur le programme

> Name of the program / Nom du programme

> Total number of platforms requested
Nombre de plates-formes demandées

> Lifetime of platforms
Durée de vie des plates-formes

> Starting date of deployment
Date de première mise en service

> Geographical area
Zone géographique

> Average number of platforms operating simultaneously
Nombre moyen de plates-formes simultanément en fonctionnement

■ Service required / Service demandé

Location
Localisation

Data collection only
Collecte de données

■ Platforms characteristics / Caractéristiques des plates-formes

> **Platforms type**
Type de plates-formes

Drifting buoys
Bouées dérivantes

Moored buoys
Bouées ancrées

Subsurface floats
Flotteurs subsurfaces

Ships
Navires

Marine animals
Animaux marins

Terrestrial animals
Animaux terrestres

Birds
Oiseaux

Fixed stations
Stations fixes

Other / Autre
(please specify / préciser)

> Number of platform of this type / Nombre de plates-formes de ce type

> Message length (bits) / Longueur du message (bits)

> Output power/ Puissance d'émission

> Platforms manufacturer
Constructeur des plates-formes

> Platforms model
Modèle des plates-formes

> Transmitters manufacturer
Constructeur des émetteurs

> Transmitters model
Modèle des émetteurs

> Transmission duty cycle / Cycle d'émission

24 hours a day < 12 hours per 48 hours < 12 hours per 24 hours
24 heures par jour < 12 heures par 48 heures < 12 heures par 24 heures

Other
Autre

> Would you like us to send a copy of your ID numbers to your platforms manufacturer?
Souhaitez-vous que nous envoyons une copie de vos numéros ID au constructeur de vos plates-formes ? Yes /Oui No /Non

Paperwork Reduction Act Guidance

Policies and Procedures Regarding Use of the NOAA Space-Based Data Collection Systems (15 CFR 911) explains the system use policy for using the Argos DCS to ensure that the Government will not allow its space-based data collection systems to be used where there are commercial space-based services available that fulfill users' requirements. The regulation contains the minimum information requirements necessary to determine if a user meets these criteria and is thereby granted use of the Argos DCS. In accordance with the regulation, responses to the collection of information are mandatory to conclude agreements for use of the NOAA DCS.

A standard part of the system use agreement with accepted applicants is that the user must provide free and open access to the data by U.S. Government agencies. No confidentiality is promised or provided.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Direct Service Division (E/SP3), Room 3320, FB-4, NOAA, 5200 Auth Road, Suitland, MD, 20746-4304.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information, subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.