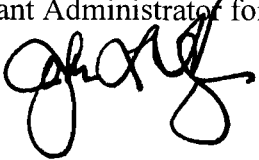




**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
1325 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283  
THE DIRECTOR

SEP 15 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mary E. Kicza  
NOAA Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services

FROM: John L. Hayes 

SUBJECT: NWS Position Regarding a Sounder on GOES-R Series

Reference your 30 August email, Advanced Geo Sounding and upcoming discussions with EUMETSAT, and the NOAA PMC Action Item for NWS to provide its position regarding a sounder on the GOES-R Series:

We understand that the current budget for GOES-T and -U does not include funds for an advanced sounder and that it is too late in the acquisition process to accommodate a sounder on GOES-T. Nevertheless, the requirements for atmospheric temperature and water vapor profiles, as stated in the CORL, are still valid. Improvements in temperature and moisture soundings and other products from a geostationary platform could play a large part in meeting those requirements and enhancing the NWS capability to address the societal impacts of weather. Extensive studies have shown the value of polar-orbiting hyperspectral soundings in operational forecasting, and regional and global models. We expect that geostationary hyperspectral soundings will build on that success and take advantage of the increase in temporal refresh.

**NWS Recommendation:**

In this budget constrained environment we request that the GOES-R program keep the geostationary sounding option open for as long as possible. If a decision has to be made now, we would prioritize a GEO sounder with other new starts as follows:

1. DSCOVER
2. GCOM/DFS
3. COSMIC2
4. GEO Sounder on GOES-U

This prioritization is based on continuity of operational capabilities (ACE, QuikSCAT, COSMIC) and the support these systems provide to the NWS Warning Function.

My POC for this effort is Mike Johnson 301-713-3557 x 157. Please let me know if you have any questions.

