GOES-R Proving Ground Roundup: The 2014 Demonstrations and Future Plans

Steven Goodman
NOAA/NESDIS/GOESPO

ABSTRACT

The launch of the first in the series of next generation NOAA geostationary environmental satellites, the GOES-R series, is only one year away with the launch of the first satellite planned for March 2016. The NOAA Administrator announced at the 2015 AMS Annual Meeting that GOES-R will continue observations during its extended post-launch testing through the 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season and transition immediately into operations afterward (March 2017). The instruments are all integrated on the satellite; the new ground processing system is deployed and undergoing integration testing; and the training plan for forecasters is rapidly coming into focus. The GOES-R Proving Ground has long been preparing forecasters, through the use of proxy data, for the new capabilities of GOES-R. Compared to the current GOES imager, the new imager has twice the spatial resolution, three times more spectral information, four times greater coverage, and five times faster refresh, as well as a wholly new instrument to detect lightning over the US and adjacent oceans. This presentation will provide an update on the GOES-R Proving Ground results from 2014 and the user readiness activities for 2015 that will prepare forecasters to use the advanced capabilities of GOES-R.