To study the Earth as a whole system and understand how it is changing, NASA works with its domestic and international partners to support a large number of Earth-observing satellite missions. These missions provide Earth science researchers the necessary data to address key questions about global climate change.

Operating Missions

Operating missions are those missions that are currently active and providing science data to researchers and operational users. Operating missions may be in their primary or extended operations phase. Currently NASA operates nineteen Earth-observing satellite missions, as well as a number of flight (i.e., airborne) missions, that provide both focused and long-term global observations of the land surface, biosphere, solid Earth, atmosphere, ocean, and cryosphere. Data from these missions enables an improved understanding of the Earth as an integrated system.

Future Missions

Missions begin with a study phase during which the key science objectives of the mission are identified, and designs for spacecraft and instruments are analyzed. Following a successful study phase, missions enter a development phase whereby all aspects of the mission are developed and tested to ensure objectives will be met.

Data

To access and download Earth-observing satellite data, visit NASA’s Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) at earthdata.nasa.gov.