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●完成に一步近付いたNOAAのGOES-R

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米国海洋大気局（NOAA）は現行の静止気象衛星群に代わる総額 110 億ドルの後継衛星の建造を進めているが、先週には搭載される 6 台の計器の内、5 台の準備が整ったとの報告を受けた。

この次世代衛星「Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite - R(GOES-R) series」は気象予報の精度やハリケーンの追跡能力を向上し、飛行機の航行ルート計画を拡大することが期待されている。

5 つ目の搭載計器として開発された磁力計は地球周辺の様々な磁場観測に用いられ、磁場嵐の影響を予測するために使われるもので、GOES-R 搭載計器としては最も大きいものになる。

この計器開発はセンサと電子部品をマッキンタイア・エレクトロニック・デザイン・アソシエーツ、ブームを ATK が担当している。

GOES-R 計画は元々 2013 年の打上げが予定されており、その遅れが政府説明責任局、NOAA 監察長官の批判を招いていたが、現在は順調な進捗を見せており、6 台の計器の最後となる静止雷観測センサ（GLM）の完成を待っている状態。この計器は西半球で発光活動を継続的に監視するために使われる。

（参考）本件報道記事

NOAA Moves a Step Closer to More Accurate Weather Forecasts

By Frank Konkel

July 21, 2014

The \$11 billion successor to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's current crop of geostationary weather satellites received another key delivery last week with word that five of six instruments are ready to be integrated into the next-generation spacecraft.

When the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite - R series reaches full capacity, it will help provide more accurate weather forecasts, improve hurricane tracking and enhance flight-route planning.

The magnetometer -- which will monitor magnetic field variations around Earth and help forecasters predict the consequences of geomagnetic storms -- is the fifth main instrument developed to fly aboard the first GOES-R, scheduled to launch in early 2016.

Physically, the magnetometer is the largest of the instruments developed for the GOES-R, with a boom that will extend 26 feet from the spacecraft once in space. The sensors and electronic elements were developed by Macintyre Electronic Design Associates in Sterling, Virginia, and the boom was built by ATK in Goleta, California.

"This milestone is another example of our continuing progress to develop, build and launch GOES-R," said Greg Mandt, NOAA system program director for the GOES-R Series Program.

Both the Government Accountability Office and NOAA's inspector general criticized the next-generation weather satellite program after NOAA delayed the launch date in 2013. However, the program appears in good stead now. One final instrument, the geostationary lightning mapper, is still to be completed. That instrument will continuously monitor lightning activity over the western hemisphere.

Other completed instruments ready for GOES-R integration include the advanced baseline imager, solar ultraviolet imager, extreme ultraviolet and X-ray irradiance sensors, and the space environment in-situ suite.

By Frank Konkel

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