SLRN (from page 27)

coast of South America, the Pacific, South Africa, and Western Australia. The NASA SLR Network continues to provide over 40% of the total data volume in the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS) as well as the most precise sub-cm accuracy ranging data.

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Figure 1. MOBLAS 7 at the GSFC in Greenbelt, Maryland

GN Agreement with NOAA for Reciprocal Contingency Support

NASA/NOAA MOU

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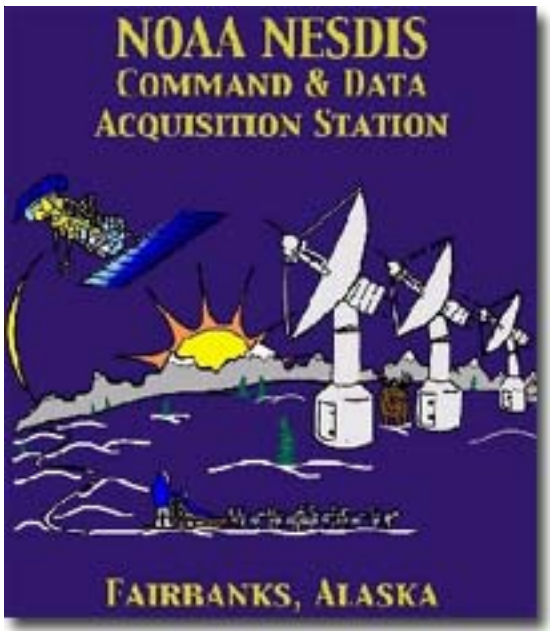
An agreement between the NASA Ground Network and NOAA to allow contingency support from the other agency's antennas is in the final approval stages. The "*Memorandum Of Understanding Between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center and National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service Concerning Spacecraft Tracking and Data Acquisition Support*" will extend through September 30, 2010.

NOAA's Command and Data Acquisition stations at Gilmore Creek, Alaska; Wallops Island, Virginia; and NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) backup station at Greenbelt, Maryland, are used in support of operational weather satellites. In the event of planned and/or unplanned resource or system outages, NOAA may receive support from compatible NASA resources for maintenance of satellite health and safety and possibly recovery of mission data.

Since the NOAA stations' coverage is largely compatible with the NASA Alaska and Wallops stations, there is an opportunity for NASA to take passes at the NOAA stations on a non-interference basis. This provides additional coverage to NASA supported satellites such as the EOS missions should a ground station antenna failure limit the capacity of the NASA stations.



Engineers have already installed EOS-specific equipment at the NOAA Alaska station, and have taken some test passes. The NOAA Alaska station is already home to the EOS ERPS equipment. Engineers supported an AQUA shadow pass with the NOAA antenna on February 20th. Data compared very favorably to GN AGS.

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