The Future for Climate Monitoring by NOAA
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Major changes are taking place within NOAA to support the continuity of critical climate observations and the production of climate data records. On February 8, 2010, the NOAA administrator, Dr. Jane Lubchenko, announced that NOAA would form a new line office titled then NOAA climate service. The NOAA climate service will be formed by combining offices and centers from the existing NOAA satellites and information line office and the NOAA research line office. The NOAA climate service will help NOAA better address growing needs for climate information across all sectors of the economy.

The NOAA climate service will be responsible for the continuity of essential climate observations including total and spectral solar irradiance. Just a week prior to the announcement of the NOAA climate service, the president's fiscal year 2011 budget contained a major restructuring of the national polar orbiting operational environmental satellite system (NPOESS). As part of this restructuring, the Air Force will be responsible for the morning polar orbit, NOAA’s European partner, EUMETSAT, will continue to provide coverage in the midmorning polar orbit, and NOAA will be responsible for the afternoon orbit as well as a shared ground and operation system. NOAA's new program will be named the joint polar satellite system. Progress in these major transitions within NOAA will be summarized at the conference.