



Acronym: NASA
Full Name: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Website: www.nasa.gov
Established: 1958
Location: Washington, D.C., United States

Areas of expertise: space exploration and civilian and military aerospace research.

Main Partners and collaborations: In the area of natural disasters: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), University of Maryland, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Short Description:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was created by the National Aeronautics and Space Act in 1958. NASA, as agency of the United States government, has "the mission to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research." Therefore, NASA concentrates its efforts in two main areas, namely: space exploration and civilian and military aerospace research.

In the area of disaster management, NASA is conscious of the fact that "correct forecast and predictions of natural phenomena are vitally important to allow for proper evacuation and damage mitigation strategies." Consequently, NASA provides important data from its satellite missions and works in cooperation with other North American organizations in order to prevent and mitigate the consequences of a natural disaster.

Main activities:

The main activities of NASA are focused on the research and test of new flight technologies, the creation of capabilities for sustainable human and robotic exploration, space exploration and supply of space technologies.

NASA develops also its activities in the field of disaster management. The systems and missions that are related to natural disaster are:

- The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) Land Rapid Response System serves the need for quick access to products from the MODIS instrument--onboard NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites--when disaster occurred.
- Satellite-derived estimates of precipitation from the Special Sensor Microwave Imager (SSM/I) and from the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM), with winds from QuikSCAT contribute in the area of hurricane and flood prediction.
- Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission.
- CloudSat - operating
- Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, I-M Series (GOES I-M) – operating
- Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) – operating
- Ice, Clouds, and Land Elevation Satellite (ICESat) – operating
- Jason-1 – operating
- National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) – development
- Quick Scatterometer (QuickSCAT) – operating
- TERRA – operating

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Source: National Aeronautics and Space Administration