

NOAA's Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office

**Alan Robinson
Licensing Analyst
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Did You Know?

To operate a private earth remote sensing satellite in the United States you need a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) private remote sensing space system Operating License.

Private = Non-U.S. Government



It's the Law!

- **The Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992** as amended (the Act), provides no person who is subject to the jurisdiction or control of the U.S. may operate any private remote sensing space system without a license
- **The law authorized the Secretary of Commerce to license private sector parties to operate private remote sensing space systems.**
- **By law, the Secretary can grant a license only upon determining, in writing that the applicant (licensee) will comply with the requirements of the Act, any regulations issued pursuant to the Act and any applicable international obligations and national security concerns of the United States.**
- **The Secretary delegated authority to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**
- **NOAA delegated authority to the Assistant Administrator (AA) to the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service**
- **AA delegated to Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA)**



CRSRA Vision

To balance commercial viability of private Earth remote sensing space systems and sound regulatory practices and policies while protecting national security, foreign policy and international obligations.



Who We Work With

Department of Defense

Department of Interior

Department of State

Intelligence Community

Interagency Reviewers

Department of Treasury/Office of Foreign Asset Control

Department of Commerce

International Trade Administration/Office of Aerospace

Office of Space Commercialization

Bureau of Industry and Security

White House

National Security Council

Office of Science and Technology Policy



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License to Operate a Private Remote Sensing Space System

Licensee:

Corporate Affiliation:

Name of System:

Description of System:

It all starts with the License application

1. Grant of License

- a. The National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, hereby grants to (herein, _____ or "the Licensee"), a License ("the License"), to operate the Licensee's private remote sensing space system described below at Section 3 of this License ("the System"), consistent with the terms of this License. This License's terms and conditions reflect, among other significant provisions, the system parameters and operating conditions approved by the Secretary of Commerce, or his or her delegate ("the Secretary").
- b. This License is granted under the authority of Title II of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992 ("the Act"), (P.L. 102-555, 15 U.S.C. §§ 5601 *et seq.*), as amended by the Commercial Space Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-303); the regulations promulgated thereunder, 15 CFR Part 960 ("the regulations"); and the U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Space Policy of April 25, 2003.
- c. The Licensee shall ensure that the information provided to NOAA and relied upon in issuing this License, and/or any subsequent licensing action, is current and accurate. Consistent with the time limits set forth in the regulations and this

Privileged Document/Proprietary Information

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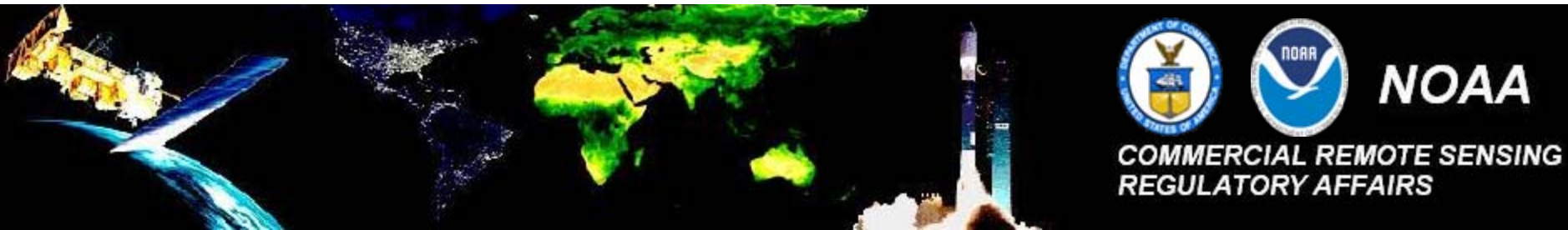


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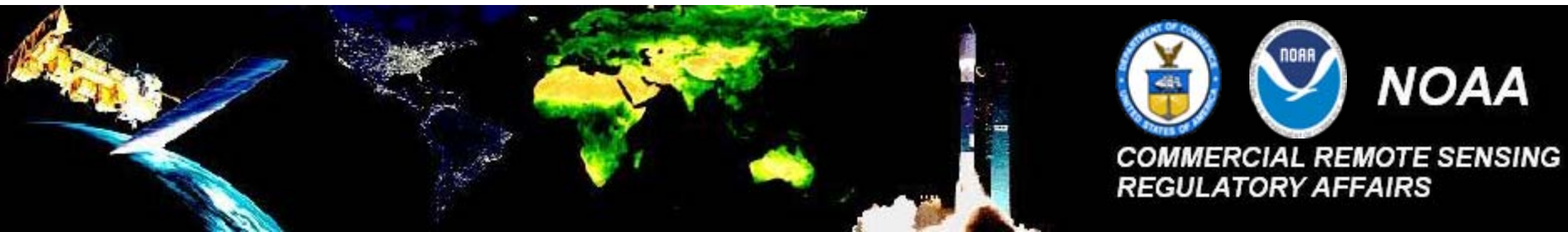
You Need To Apply

- If your satellite can actively or passively sense the Earth
- Not sure? Contact CRSRA for a consultation at crsra@noaa.gov
- Your plan is "Proprietary"-- NOT shared
- **It's FREE!**



How To Apply

- Application process is straight forward!
- Directions found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 15 CFR Part 960.
- Posted at www.licensing.noaa.gov
- Contact CRSRA for further assistance in obtaining a license.
- ***It's FREE! No fee for application or maintenance!***



Regulations – 15 CFR Part 960

- Focuses on operations of the Remote Sensing System
- Broadly defines Remote Sensing System to include the finite number of satellites, and associated facilities including those for tasking, receiving and storing data
- Requires data protection plans which describe how licensee plans to protect data and information through the lifecycle of tasking, operations, processing, archiving, and dissemination
- Requires audits and inspections of facilities and that an tasking log be maintained and provided to NOAA
- Provides information on
 - Application Process (960.4, Appendix-1)**
 - Conditions of Operations (960.11)**
 - Foreign Agreements (960.8)**
 - Prohibitions (960.13)**
 - Enforcement Procedures (960.14)**



General Conditions 15 CFR 960.11

As a minimum licensees shall:

- **Operate System in a Way to Preserve National Security and observe Foreign Policy/International Obligations of the US**
- **Maintain Operational Control from within the US**
- **Maintain Records of Operations and Make Available**
- **Limit Collection and/or Dissemination as Required**
- **Notify NOAA of Foreign Agreements**
- **Report Deviations and Anomalies (including planned)**
- **Make Data Available to Department of Interior for the National Archive**
- **Dispose of System in manner approved by Assistant Administrator**
- **Submit a Data Protection Plan**



Compliance and Monitoring

It is all about verification of the:

License

Foreign Agreement

Data Protection Plan

Audits Information

any other documentation submitted

Launch plans/prelaunch documentation

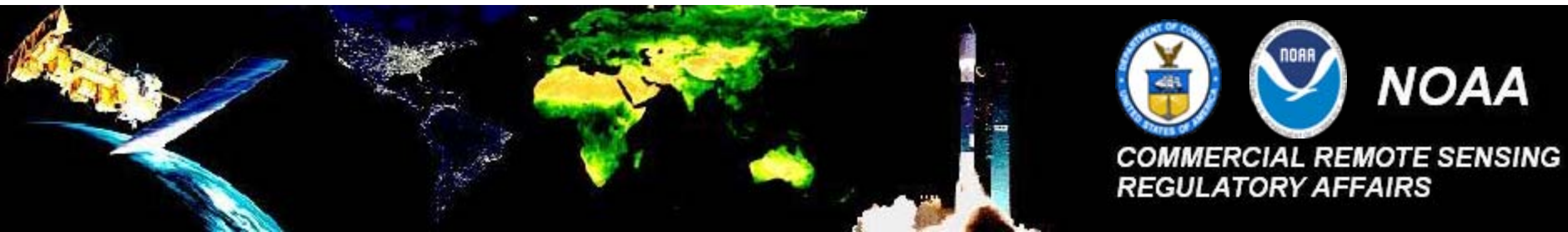
Process for verification includes:

Review and analysis of all material listed above

Independent research

Audit information review

On site inspections -- annually



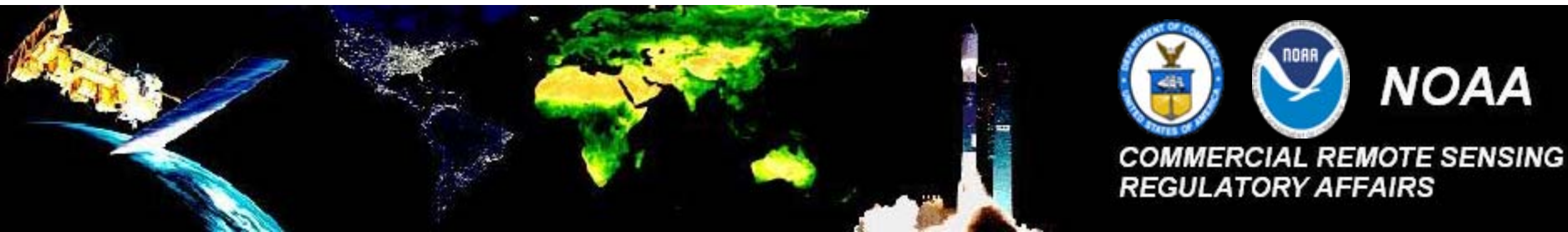
Manufacturers and Launchers

- **Don't need a license from NOAA**
 - Only satellite operators
- **Growing industry...new operators will come from all corners**
- **CRSRA would like your help getting the word out**
- **Put our information in your kits, on your websites, instructions, other?**



Summary

- **It's the law!** Non-U.S. Government satellite operators who plan to sense the Earth need a license from NOAA
- **Contact CRSRA...Apply!**
- **Want help to get the word out**
- **It's FREE!**



CRS Regulatory Affairs Staff Information

Team email address: crsra@noaa.gov

Jane D'Aguanno
Director

Licensing:

Alan Robinson – Licensing Analyst

David Hasenauer – Licensing Analyst

Compliance:

Dennis Mailhot – Compliance Officer

Thomas Smith – Compliance Officer

