

**NOAA's  
Commercial Remote Sensing  
Regulatory Affairs Office**

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August 11, 2012**

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Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs



# *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**

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# It's the Law!

- **The National and Commercial Space Programs Act of 2010 (formerly the 1992 Land Remote Sensing Policy 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)**

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# 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**

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# Who We Work With

**Department of Defense**

**Department of Interior**

**Department of State**

**Intelligence Community**

**Interagency Reviewers**

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**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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# *You Need Contact CRSRA*

- If your satellite can actively or passively sense the Earth's surface
- **It's FREE!**
- Your plan is "Proprietary"-- NOT shared

# How To Apply



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA)



## Initial Contact Form

Private entities (non-U.S. Government) under the jurisdiction or control of the United States who propose to operate a remote sensing space system (satellite) may need to have a license as required by U.S. law. To determine your need for a license, please complete the below form and submit it by email to [crsra@noaa.gov](mailto:crsra@noaa.gov).

Operator Name (company, university, other):

Address:

Phone:  Email:

Space System Name:

Anticipated Operational Date:

Mission Objectives:

Provide technical space system information at the level of detail typical of a request for proposal specification (including sensor type; spatial (use Ground Sample Distance for electro-optic sensors) and spectral resolution; pointing parameters, etc):

- Initial Contact Form
- Your input
- [www.nesdis.noaa.gov/crsra](http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/crsra)
- [Cal Poly website](#)

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# Initial Contact Forms Received No License Required



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## 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.nesdis.noaa.gov/crsra](http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/crsra)
- Contact CRSRA for further assistance in obtaining a license
- ***It's FREE! No fee for application or maintenance!***

# CubeSat Licensees



Kentucky  
Space

UCIrvine  
University of California, Irvine



Kentucky  
Space

\*

\* New License processed in 7 days based on 5.0m GSD

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# 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 a 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

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# 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**

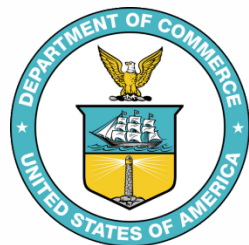
**Audit information review**

**On site inspections -- annually**

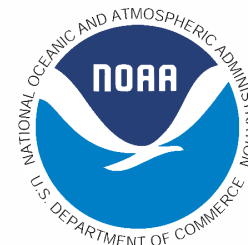
# Manufacturers and Launchers

- **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?**

# ***NOAA Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs***



**Contact:**  
**CRSRA@noaa.gov**



Address: NOAA Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs  
1335 East-West Highway  
Room 8260  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Web: <http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/CRSRA/>


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# NOAA CRSRA Website

NOAA HOME WEATHER OCEANS FISHERIES CHARTING SATELLITES CLIMATE RESEARCH COASTS CAREERS

 **NOAA** COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Department of Commerce [National Space Policy](#) [Contact Us](#)  CRSRA  All of NOAA  [» SEARCH](#)

## Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs

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### Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office

Welcome to NOAA's Web Site on the Licensing of Private Remote Sensing Space Systems. This Web Site is intended to provide U.S. laws, regulations, policies, and related information pertaining to the operation of private and commercial remote sensing satellite systems.

#### Mission

To regulate the operation of private Earth remote sensing space systems, subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States, while preserving essential national security interests, foreign policy and international

[Authorities](#)  
[Resources](#)  
[Application Process](#)  
[Audit Cycle](#)  
[FAQ](#)

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# 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!**

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# Questions?

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