

NOAA's COOPERATIVE DATA AND RESCUE SERVICES PROGRAM (CDARS)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Cooperative Data and Rescue Services (CDARS) program supports the space-based components of both the Argos and Search and Rescue systems. It is critical to launch these instruments no later than 2021 to ensure continuity of the services these satellites provide. The instruments that are currently meeting the requirements for these systems are onboard satellites (e.g. MetOP-A, NOAA-15, 18 and 19) that are operating past their design lives. If NOAA is unable to deliver these instruments to space before a gap in service occurs, there will be an increase in wait times for SARSAT which could threaten the lives of mariners and other users around the world, and possible data loss for Argos, which will jeopardize critical environmental records.

CDARS supports Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking!

The Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) System is employed to detect and locate mariners, aviators, and recreational enthusiasts in distress almost anywhere in the world at any time in almost any condition. The SARSAT system consists of two instruments: A Search and Rescue Repeater (SARR), which is a real-time transponder, and a Search and Rescue Processor (SARP). They are used for storing and downloading beacon alert signals from remote locations to support the COSPAS-SARSAT International satellite program. Since 1982, SARSAT is credited with saving over 39,000 people worldwide, including a total of 7,749 people in the U.S. Over 40 countries in addition to the United States currently rely on the SARSAT system for their search and rescue needs.

CDARS supports Argos!

Currently, there are 21,000 active Argos tags being tracked by nearly 2,000 users in over 100 countries. The U.S. Government is the largest beneficiary of Argos data, accounting for more than 40 percent of total system users. Due to its low power requirements and the very small profile of Argos tags, Argos has unique applications for environmental, wildlife and national security.

NOAA depends on the Argos system to collect worldwide data on our oceans from moored and drifting buoys and submerged floats. Argos transmitters are the only instruments that can globally track birds and marine animals such as whales, fish and sea turtles to provide data critical to natural resource management and impact mitigation decisions related to military readiness operations, energy development, fishing quotas, and endangered species. Argos satellite tracking data is used to enforce international fishing agreements, to track sensitive cargo shipments, and is utilized in numerous other national and international security programs.

WHY WE NEED CDARS:

The existing constellation of NOAA polar orbiting satellites currently supporting SARSAT and Argos (NOAA-15, 18, and 19) is severely aging and is operating past its design life. The FY18 Omnibus Appropriations Act included \$24 million for CDARS, and the FY19 Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended an additional \$37.9 million for CDARS. **This funding must be preserved in Conference to keep CDARS on track for a 2021 launch and prevent gaps in critical safety, conservation, and national security data collection programs.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of the Senate mark of \$37.9M for CDARS to preserve the scheduled launch of updated Argos equipment in 2021. This funding will ensure quick response times for Search and Rescue and preserve data continuity for Argos.

Questions? Contact Argos Alliance Administrator Celes Eckerman at CEckerman@asgdc.com