

# Maryland Federal Facilities Profile

## NOAA Satellite Operations Facility (NSOF)



4231 Suitland Road  
Suitland, Maryland 20746  
301-817-4000  
Prince George's County

**Director:** Vanessa Griffin, Director, Office of Satellite and Product Operations

**Department:** Department of Commerce (DOC)

**Parent Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

**Maryland Employees:** 550

**History & Mission:** The U.S. operational environmental satellite program, which was part of a predecessor agency to NOAA, moved to the Suitland Federal Center in 1958 and joined the weather-related functions that had been in Suitland since the late 1940's. In June 2007, the NSOF moved to a new state-of-the-art facility in a LEED® gold building on the Suitland Federal Center campus.

The Office of Satellite and Product Operations (OSPO) is part of the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS). NESDIS is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Department of Commerce. OSPO was created by merging the Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution (OSDPD) and the Office of Satellite Operations. It is responsible for maintaining the comprehensive scheduling and data information for both Geostationary and Polar orbiting satellites along with providing products derived from the data collected by these satellites. The OSPO manages and directs the operation of the central ground facilities which ingest, process, and distribute environmental satellite data and derived products to domestic and foreign users. OSPO manages the Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) System, and is responsible for coordinating and implementing the United States activities in the international satellite aided search and rescue program, COSPAS-SARSAT.

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### Major Divisions

National Ice Center (NIC)  
(Prince George's County)  
NOAA Satellite Operations Center (SOCC)  
(Prince George's County)

U.S. Mission Control Center for the Search and  
Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking Program (COSPAS-  
SARSAT) (Prince George's County)

### Resources

[Acquisition Forecast](#)  
[NOAA Acquisition Process Guide](#)  
[Small Business](#)  
[NOAA Acquisition and Grants Office](#)  
[NOAA Technology Partnership Office](#)  
[Technology Transfer Program](#)  
[Small Business Research Program](#)

### Branches and Contacts

#### Office of the Director

423 I Suitland Road  
Suitland, Maryland 20746

Vanessa Griffin, Director  
301-817-4000  
Vanessa.l.griffin@noaa.gov

Chris Sisko, Mission Operations Division  
Deputy Chief  
301-817-4263  
Chris.sisko@noaa.gov

Thomas Renkevans, Satellite  
Products and Services Division  
Chief  
301-683-3257  
Thomas.renkevans@noaa.gov

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### National Ice Center (NIC)

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The U.S. National Ice Center (NIC) is a multi-agency operational center operated by the United States Navy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United States Coast Guard. Our mission is to provide global to tactical scale ice and snow products, ice forecasting, and other environmental intelligence services for the United States government.

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4231 Suitland Road  
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Kevin Berberich, Deputy Director  
301-817-3939  
Kevin.berberick@noaa.gov

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### Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT)

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The SARSAT system uses NOAA satellites in low-earth and geostationary orbits to detect and locate aviators, mariners, and land-based users in distress. The satellites relay distress signals from emergency beacons to a network of ground stations and ultimately to the U.S. Mission Control Center (USMCC) in Suitland, Maryland.

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NOAA SARSAT  
NSOF, E/SPO53  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Montgomery County

Christopher O'Connors, Program  
Manager  
301-817-3846  
Christopher.o'connors@noaa.gov

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### **NOAA's Top NAICS Codes**

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1. 541512 (Computer Systems Design Services)
2. 541519 (Other Computer Related Services)
3. 541712 (Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, Life Sciences [except biotechnology])
4. 541611 (Administrative Management and General Management Consulting Services)
5. 541330 (Engineering Services)
6. 541990 (All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services)
7. 541511 (Custom Computer Programming Services)
8. 541620 (Environmental Consulting Services)
9. 541370 (Surveying and Mapping [except geophysical] Services)
10. 336611 (Ship Building and Repairing)