The National Requirement: The Nation requires specialized expertise and computing systems that can ingest and process data, and analyze and distribute satellite-derived products and services to protect US lives and property, and enhance the Nation's environmental, national, homeland, and economic security.

NOAA's Response: The Product Processing and Distribution program is NOAA Satellites and Information Service's operational satellite product processing program to national and international customers and users. On a 24 hours-per-day, 7 days-per-week basis, it provides satellite-derived products and services from NOAA and non-NOAA environmental satellites to accurately track the location, extent and duration of severe weather such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter storms; support development of flash flood warnings; track volcanic ash clouds and severe winds that threaten aviation safety; detect remote wildland fires; monitor coastal ecosystem health; identify and monitor maritime hazards from sea ice; and assist in search and rescue activities. The Product Processing and Distribution program is the operational interface with NOAA's National Weather Service and supplies the satellite data that makes up more than 99 percent of the information used in numerical weather prediction models. The program is constantly assessing and leveraging data from advanced satellite sensors to improve operational support to its customers. It also supports activities to improve the effectiveness and interoperability of national systems for sharing natural disaster information. By using maps and data generated by remote- and land-based sensors, this information is made widely accessible to all government agencies and other entities involved in managing and mitigating the impacts of disasters. Included in the operations of the program is NOAA's contribution to the joint National Ice Center which monitors global sea ice conditions to support safe and effective maritime transportation. The program supplies data critical to the operations of the all branches of the US Armed Services and US Coast Guard and supports operations of the US mission control center for satellite-assisted search and rescue.

Partners and Customers: All NOAA Offices (Weather, Oceans and Coasts, Fisheries, Research), US Armed Services, US Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, US Geological Survey, wildland fire agencies, oceans and coastal users, state and local government agencies, Federal Emergency Management Agency and local emergency managers, academia, private weather sector, the public, and users world-wide.

Financing: The FY 2005 Budget requests **$27.245 million** to continue management and improvement of the operations necessary to ingest, process, and distribute environmental satellite data products and services to meet the growing demands of NOAA's customers and users.

For additional information: www.osdpd.noaa.gov and www.nesdis.noaa.gov