

**Announcement of Opportunity for Data Providers and Data Users**  
**Free Product Dissemination via GEONETCast Americas**  
**<http://www.geonetcastamericas.noaa.gov/>**

**The GEONETCast system provides free and open access to environmental data for the public good.** Data providers can use GEONETCast to send products such as rainfall rates, volcanic or earthquake activity, sea conditions, air quality, climate data, weather warnings and much more -- globally, in a timely manner. The GEONETCast environmental data dissemination system was developed in support of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). GEONETCast Americas is the Western Hemisphere component of the global system. It serves North, Central and South America and the Caribbean using inexpensive satellite receiver stations based on Digital Video Broadcast. GEOSS supports a broad range of basic societal benefits, including the reduction of loss of life and property from tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural hazards; improved water resources and energy management; and supporting public health and safety.

**Description**

GEONETCast uses a global network of communications satellites to transmit environmental, satellite data, in situ data, and Earth observation products from providers to users. Commercially available technology provides cost-efficient solutions with easy to use terminals, which are commonly employed in direct-to-home digital television systems (DVB-S). The multicast capability allows different datasets to be handled in parallel, regardless of the source. GEONETCast Americas has the ability to transmit a large number of data products to almost any user in the Americas. GEONETCast products and data are transmitted free of charge to users, but GEONETCast receiving stations are provided by users at their own cost.

**Goals**

This announcement of opportunity is open to any *data provider* who would like to use the GEONETCast Americas data dissemination system to make their data products available at no cost to users in the Americas and possibly world-wide. Interested *data users* are also invited to make a request for data products that they would like to receive via the GEONETCast Americas system.

**Information for Data Providers:**

For interested data providers: Please fill out a GEONETCast Americas product registration form available on the NOAA GEONETCast Americas website.  
<http://www.geonetcastamericas.noaa.gov/product-register.html>

Please ensure that the form is completely filled out with all required data. Please submit a separate form for each data product. You may submit the form via the website to the GEONETCast Americas Coordinator. When emailing your product registration form, please use the following text as your subject line, "GEONETCast Americas Announcement of Opportunity".

**Information for Data Users:**

For interested data users: Please fill out a GEONETCast Americas product request form that is available on the NOAA GEONETCast Americas website if you would like to request additional data products to be sent via GEONETCast Americas.

<http://www.geonetcastamericas.noaa.gov/users-requestproduct.html>

Please ensure that the form is completely filled out with all required data. You may submit the form via the website to the GEONETCast Americas Coordinator. When emailing your product request form, please use the following text as your subject line, "GEONETCast Americas Announcement of Opportunity".

**Examples of Products**

Products from many sources, concerning any number of Earth observations, and touching on any of the 9 societal benefits of GEOSS, are encouraged. Products currently carried over GEONETCast Americas include: GOES-10 satellite visible, water vapor and infrared channels; Lightning Discharge Images; Vegetation Health Index; Volcanic Ash Graphic; Mapped Snow Coverage; and Rainfall Rate.

**Product Selection**

GEONETCast Americas currently has limited bandwidth capacity for data dissemination. Therefore, it may not be possible to accept all products offered by providers for transmission over the GEONETCast Americas broadcast service. The proposals will be received, reviewed and evaluated by the GEONETCast Americas Coordination Group, which has representation from GEO member governments in the Americas. The GEONETCast Coordination Group may request additional information from the Data Provider.

**General remarks**

Participation in this GEONETCast project is on a completely voluntary basis. Any data or products provided will be made available free of charge to anyone using their own GEONETCast receiving station and are considered in the public domain. Products are transmitted to the GEONETCast Americas uplink station via the Internet.

**Related Websites:**

GEO - <http://earthobservations.org/>

GEOSS - [http://earthobservations.org/gci\\_gci.shtml](http://earthobservations.org/gci_gci.shtml)

GEONETCast - <http://earthobservations.org/geonetcast.shtml>

GEONETCast Americas - <http://www.geonetcastamericas.noaa.gov>

USGEO- <http://usgeo.gov>