

COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE AND SATELLITES (CICS)

The Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites (CICS) is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a consortium of academic, non-profit and community organizations with leadership from the University of North Carolina (UNC) System through North Carolina State University (NC State) and the University of Maryland, College Park. The new institute will analyze observations from new and existing Earth-orbiting satellites to detect, observe and forecast the impacts of climate change on the environment and its ecosystems.

Programs conducted in North Carolina will be centered at CICS-NC in support of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville, home to the world's largest and most important climate data archive. Another center will be located on the campus of the University of Maryland in College Park. The proposed value of the combined effort is estimated to be \$93,000,000 over five years.

CICS-NC will be an Inter-Institutional Research Center (IRC) of the UNC System, administered by NC State and affiliated with several of the UNC academic institutions as well as a number of other academic and community partners. CICS-NC will be led by the Director of the IRC and will include numerous partners from academic institutions with specific expertise in the challenges of utilizing satellite observations in climate research and applications, as well as non-profit and private sector partners with expertise in science communication and outreach. The partner academic institutions will include Duke University, the University of Miami, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Oregon State University, and Colorado State University. NC State will provide CICS-NC with access to a strong graduate program in atmospheric sciences, and many of the other partners offer complementary research and academic programs. Other team members with exceptional strength in scientific computing include the Renaissance Computing Institute of the UNC System, and the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Additional support for community engagement and outreach is provided by the North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate member of the UNC System, and by the Centers for Environmental and Climate Interaction (CECI), an Asheville-based organization of academic, non-profit, community and private organizations with a common interest in advancing the capabilities represented by CICS-NC.

CICS will conduct collaborative research with NOAA scientists in three principal themes: Climate and Satellite Research and Applications, Climate and Satellite Observations and Monitoring, and Climate Research and Modeling. Research projects will be carried out in College Park, MD and Asheville, NC, as well as at the sites of teaming institutions when appropriate.