

TRW-built Aqua Spacecraft Delivers First Data to Earth

Redondo Beach, Calif. — June 24, 2002 — NASA's newest Earth Observing System spacecraft, Aqua, built by TRW (NYSE:TRW), has started sending [its first data and engineering images](#) back to Earth — giving scientists a tantalizing peek at the information that will be generated over the next six years during the satellite's mission life.

Five of Aqua's six instruments have started producing data that will serve as the basis for long-term, coordinated study of the planet's water systems by teams of scientists around the world, with the sixth instrument — the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer — expected to return initial data this week. The biggest conical spinning reflector in space, the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer (AMSR-E), has provided a global map of sea surface temperatures.

"We're very pleased Aqua is healthy and its instruments are performing well," said Tim Hannemann, TRW Space & Electronics president and chief executive officer. "This mission demonstrates how technology delivers important data to meteorologists and climatologists. It is gratifying to know that the skill and efforts of TRW's men and women, working with NASA and scientists, helped to produce Aqua's splendid early results."

Aqua's instruments will produce dozens of data products designed to answer questions about hydrological processes in the atmosphere, cryosphere, on land and in the oceans. Aqua was launched six weeks ago from Vandenberg Air Force Base and was raised to its final 438-mile, sun synchronous polar orbit last week.

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