NOAA’s Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs

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Current Trends

• Explosion of new licensees & licenses
  • 26 issued FY 96 to FY10
  • 41 issued FY10 to present
  • 5 applications in process
  • 15 other entities told they must apply
• Explosion of foreign and domestic Ground Station inspection sites
  • 26 sites at end of FY10
  • 70 current sites -- 20 countries
  • 10 sites pending approval
  • 100+ sites anticipated by FY16
• Increase in Quarterly and Annual Audits
• Expect a corresponding increase in foreign agreements
Current Trends

- Small Sats will dominate market and workload
  - Lower cost for build (COTS) & launch (secondary payload)
  - Rapid refresh
  - Significant increase in foreign Small Sats
- Larger Cubesats...6U becoming common
  - Future missions: limited propulsion, telescoping optics
- Constellation licenses
  - Foreign constellations...Satellogic “300”
- Licenses for ISS platform operations and Cubesats deployment
- Different sensors: Hyper, SWIR, LWIR, Radiometric, Video
- Operations requiring Non-Earth Imaging (NEI) to support primary mission--proximity operations to natural and man-made objects
- Satellite refueling, asteroid mining
- Increase in on-orbit satellites...currently 87....6 on Oct 1, 2010
Issues

• Licensing position de-funded...currently 1 deep since Feb 2014

• FY 15 Inspection budget is 90% of current requirement
  • Falls farther behind as each new location is added

• Expanding Shutter Control requirements
  • TBD manpower, training, software and hardware requirements

• Special Collects

• Non-Earth Imaging (NEI)
Issues

- Need to streamline Cubesat reviews/license processing
- CubeSat imagery review
- Increased inspection requirements
- New technologies
- Increased foreign capability
- Part domestic – Part foreign owner/operators
Questions?