

Kathleen Kelly

Kathleen Kelly is the Director of the Office of Satellite Operations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/ National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Service (NESDIS). She is responsible for the operation of the nation's 15 environmental satellites, from its 3 facilities in Suitland, Maryland; Fairbanks, Alaska; and Wallops Island, Virginia. These satellites include NOAA's constellation of geostationary and polar orbiting spacecraft and the Department of Defense's polar orbiting environmental spacecraft. The office employs 207 civil servants and 100 contractors. She graduated magna cum laude from Millersville University near Lancaster, Pa., with a degree in mathematics. She has spent her entire professional career with NOAA beginning in 1975 as part of the first class of the Graduate Scientist Program, undertaking postgraduate studies in mathematics and computer science at the University of Maryland. Ms. Kelly has worked in several areas of NESDIS, most notably in the Office of Satellite Operations where in the years from 1987 to 1996, she played a major role in the development of the GOES I-M series Image Navigation and Registration system, leading the NESDIS effort to bring this system into successful operation with GOES-8 in 1994. Kathleen was part of a team awarded the Department of Commerce Silver Medal for GOES I-M ground system development. She was also awarded the Department of Commerce Gold medal for her work in the procurement effort for the GOES N-Q spacecraft. She has also received several NASA awards for her work in GOES image navigation and for GOES launch support. Ms. Kelly served as the manager of the Suitland operation from 1996 to 2000, prior to being named as Office Director in November 2000.