**Weather Predictions Expected to Improve with New U.S. Satellite**

**美国新卫星有望改善天气预报**

A new American weather satellite could save more lives by better predicting extreme weather conditions.

一颗新的美国气象卫星能够通过更好地预测极端天气来挽救更多生命。

The satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral, in the state of Florida, on November 19. It will be in orbit some 36,000 kilometers above Earth's surface.

这颗卫星于11月19日在佛罗里达州卡纳维拉尔角发射升空，它将停留在距离地球表面大约3.6万公里的轨道上。

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, also known as NOAA, has been working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on the project.

美国国家海洋和大气管理局(简称NOAA)一直在和美国国家航空航天局合作开展该项目。

NOAA officials are calling the new satellite GOES-R. That is short for a much longer name -- the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite – R Series.

国家海洋和大气管理局官员把这颗新卫星命名为GOES-R，这是地球静止轨道环境业务卫星R系列的缩写。

NOAA said GOES-R could improve the nation's ability to observe weather conditions and make weather predictions. It said the satellite's deployment would lead to more exact and timely weather forecasts, watches and warnings.

国家海洋和大气管理局表示，GOES-R卫星能够提高美国观察气象和预报天气的能力。该局表示，这颗卫星的部署将会带来更加准确和及时的天气预报、观测和预警。

The government agency said the satellite will require testing of its six instruments and will be ready to work "within a year."

这家政府机构表示，这颗卫星需要测试其配备的六种仪器，并将在一年内做好工作准备。

Next generation of weather satellites

下一代气象卫星

"The next generation of weather satellites is finally here," said NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan. She described GOES-R as one of the most sophisticated Earth-observing machines ever created.

国家海洋和大气管理局局长凯瑟琳·苏利文(Kathryn Sullivan)表示，“这颗下一代卫星终于来了。”她称GOES-R卫星是美国曾经制造的最为先进的地球观测设备之一。

Sullivan said its instruments will be able to study Earth five times faster and with four times more detail than any other NOAA satellite currently in operation. She believes this will make the United States an even stronger, more "Weather-Ready" nation.

苏利文表示，和该局当前运作的其它卫星相比，这颗卫星上的仪器能够以5倍的速度和4倍的详尽来研究地球。她认为这将使得美国成为一个更加强大、更加做好气象准备的国家。

A NOAA statement said the greater detail will help improve the agency's study of ocean storms, as well as "the prediction and warnings of severe weather." In addition, GOES-R will be able to provide improved rainfall estimates, which will lead to more timely and detailed flood warnings.

国家海洋和大气管理局发布的一份声明表示，更详尽信息将有助于提高该机构对“海洋风暴”以及“恶劣天气预报和示警”的研究。此外，GOES-R卫星还能提供更好的降雨估算，这将带来更及时和详尽的洪水预警。

The statement also said that GOES-R will give better estimates of wind strength, as well as better measurement of fog, ice or lightning strikes.

声明还表示，GOES-R卫星能够对风力强度进行更好的估算，还能对雾、冰以及雷击进行更好的测算。

One of the six instruments on the satellite is designed to help scientists study lightning strikes and map them. This, NOAA says, will help the agency follow the movement of severe storms and provide more detailed warnings.

该卫星上的六种仪器之一旨在帮助科学家研究雷击并绘制地图。国家海洋和大气管理局表示，这将有助于该机构跟踪强暴风雨的运动，并提供更详尽的预警。

Craig Fugate serves as administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He says that the GOES-R satellite will improve the ability of people and organizations across America to prepare for, and react to, weather-related disasters.

克雷格·福格特(Craig Fugate)担任美国联邦应急管理署署长。他说，GOES-R卫星将提高美国各地群众和组织准备和应对天气灾害的能力。

Fugate feels that better understanding of the world around us will lead to better results. These include knowing where to best position supplies before a storm hits and providing more targeted information to local officials. That information could help the officials decide when to order civilians to leave an area because of bad weather.

福格特认为，更好地了解我们周边的环境能够带来更好的结果。这些包括在暴风雨来临之前知道哪里最适合储存物资，并向地方官员提供更有针对性的信息。这些信息可以帮助官员决定何时命令平民因为恶劣天气转移。

In addition to weather forecasting, GOES-R will be part of an international search and rescue network. It will have a "special transponder" that will be able to find signals from emergency beacons.

除了天气预报，GOES-R卫星还是国际搜救网络的一部分。它将配备一个“特制应答机”，能够发现应急信标的信号。

I'm Phil Dierking.

菲儿·迪尔金 报道。

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Words in This Story

beacon – n. a radio signal that is broadcast to help guide ships, airplanes, etc.

forecast – n. to say that (something) will happen in the future

geostationary – adj. moving in orbit in space along the equator, so that it remains stationary to a fixed point on the surface

sophisticated – adj. highly developed and complex

transponder – n. a device that receives a radio signal and sends out a signal in response and that is used especially to show the location of something