



**Town Hall Session at the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union
Monday, 14 December 2015: 12:30-13:30
Moscone West, 2005**

The inaugural National Research Council “decadal survey” for Earth Science and Applications from Space (ESAS) was published in 2007 (http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=11820) ESAS 2017, covering the period 2017-2027 and again sponsored by NASA, NOAA, and the USGS, is anticipated to have its formal start in late summer 2015. The survey’s primary tasks will be to: 1. Assess progress in addressing the major scientific and application challenges outlined in the 2007 survey; 2. Develop a prioritized list of top-level science and application objectives to guide space-based Earth observations over the survey interval; 3. Identify gaps and opportunities in the programs of record at NASA, NOAA, and USGS in pursuit of the top-level science and application challenges—including space-based opportunities that provide both sustained and experimental observations; and 4. Recommend—considering science priorities, implementation costs, new technologies and platforms, interagency partnerships, international partners, and in situ and other complementary programs—approaches to facilitate the development of a robust, resilient, and appropriately balanced U.S. program of Earth observations from space.

Recommendations will be prioritized, and the survey will identify options that might allow a larger fraction of its recommended programs to be executed in the survey timeframe. For NASA, the survey will address the overall balance of the program, such as the relative investments in flight and non-flight activities, investigator-class and systematic missions, and continuing and new measurements. The survey will be led by a steering committee supported by several study panels. A key component of the survey will be a canvas of the community for new ideas about missions, programs, and capabilities to advance Earth system science and to ensure the nation has a healthy, robust, and successful research and application programs over the decade and beyond. Representatives from the survey will be on hand to lead a discussion towards these objectives.