COMS Retirement Information

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National Meteorological Satellite Center (NMSC), KMA

The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) is going to retire Korea’s first geostationary meteorological satellite, COMS, or Communication, Ocean and Meteorological Satellite. The COMS’ meteorological imager (MI) will be terminating its observation on 31 March 2020 at UTC 23:59. The COMS, located at 128.2 °E and operated by KMA, was launched on 26 June 2010 and started its official operation on 1 April after its 10-month in-orbit test. It was operated two years longer than its seven-year design lifespan and finally, its meteorological mission is about to reach the end-point after nine years of operation history.

As notified before, the COMS’ follow-up satellite, GK-2A (Geo-KOMPSAT-2A) was launched into the same position at 128.2 °E on 4 December 2018 and has been officially operating since 25 July 2019. In terms of data service succession, the GK-2A has replaced COM’s High/Low Rate Information Transmission (H/LRIT) broadcast service in July 2019. In March 2020, the GK-2A will replace the COMS’ Atmospheric Motion Vector (AMV) and Clear Sky Radiance (CSR) products, which are distributed through the Global Telecommunication System (GTS). After the COMS finishes its mission, its historical MI data will be available via the NMSC website.

For your information, the other two sensors on the COMS — Geostationary Ocean Color Imager (GOCI) and ka-band — will be operated longer than MI and their lifetime will be decided in the future considering the health status of the COMS.

Related links:


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