

Redondo Beach City Council Commends Performances Of Chandra X-ray Observatory, EOS Aura & Milstar-1 Payload



Redondo Beach Mayor Steve Aspel, left, presents proclamations to Peggy Paul, program manager, Protected MILSATCOM Orbital Operations, and Stuart Linsky, vice president, Communication Programs (Milstar-1 payload); Jon Spain, System Operation and Maintenance director (Chandra); and Dan Franco, EOS Aura program manager. (Northrop Grumman photo by Robert M. Brown)

July 3, 2014

Northrop Grumman has developed leading-edge technologies for space science and exploration, climate monitoring and national security at its Redondo Beach, Calif., facilities for nearly six decades.



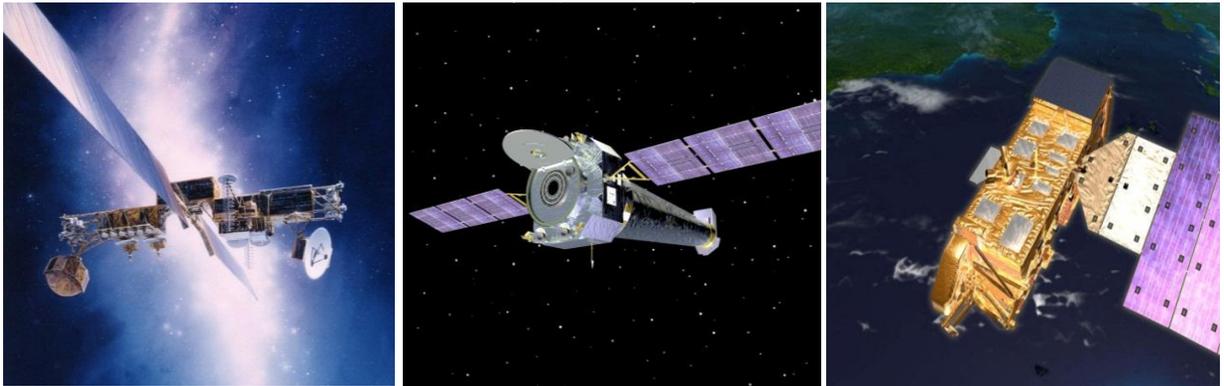
During that time, the company's partnership with the City of Redondo Beach has fostered a business and economic environment conducive for designing and building satellites that have the hallmarks of technical excellence, solid on-orbit performance and exceptional longevity.

The relationship continues stronger than ever, as shown during the City Council's July 1 meeting. Mayor Steve Aspel and Council members presented Northrop Grumman with a proclamation that recognizes the longevity of three spacecraft designed and built in Redondo Beach. Each is observing a major on orbit anniversary in 2014. They are:

NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory: On July 23, the Chandra space telescope is expected to reach 15 years on orbit, or three times the minimum requirements of its five-year design life.

NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) Aura: Launched July 15, 2004, the Aura climate monitoring satellite is on schedule to reach 10 years on orbit, or twice its design life.

Milstar-1 Payload: The U.S. Air Force's venerable Milstar-1 satellite, carrying a protected communications payload from Northrop Grumman, marked 20 years on orbit Feb. 7, which is twice its 10-year design life.



*Left: Milstar communications satellite artist's concept (Image courtesy of U.S. Air Force)
Center: Chandra X-ray Observatory artist's concept (Northrop Grumman image)
Right: Earth Observing System Aura (Northrop Grumman image)*

“Their 25 additional years of combined on orbit performance are among the hundreds of years of added service all Northrop Grumman spacecraft have provided altogether,” Mayor Aspel said in presenting the proclamation to company representatives.

“These satellites and payloads have helped sustain and grow an aerospace and defense industry that is vital to the regional economy and to homeland security,” he said.

Program Managers Accept Proclamation

“We’ve been building protected communications payloads in Redondo Beach for 30 years. That’s also how long I’ve lived and raised a family here. Your support creates an ideal environment for doing both,” said Peggy Paul, program manager, Protected MILSATCOM Orbital Operations, in accepting the proclamation for the company’s Milstar payloads program.

“The nearby Los Angeles Air Force Base is our ultimate customer for these payloads. That’s another important advantage of having our operations here,” she said. Paul noted the city’s support for LAAFB during military base closing hearings in the early 2000s.

Aura Program Manager Dan Franco thanked the mayor and City Council for their support. "I'm honored to accept the proclamation on behalf of the employees who built the climate monitoring satellite it talks about. Part of being a good corporate citizen is being a good caretaker of our environment, which this satellite does so well."

About Chandra, EOS Aura and Milstar-1

The Chandra X-ray Observatory, launched July 23, 1999, collects data about the life cycle of stars and the role of supermassive black holes in the formation of galaxies. One of NASA's Great Observatories, Chandra continues to make major contributions to our understanding of the cosmos.

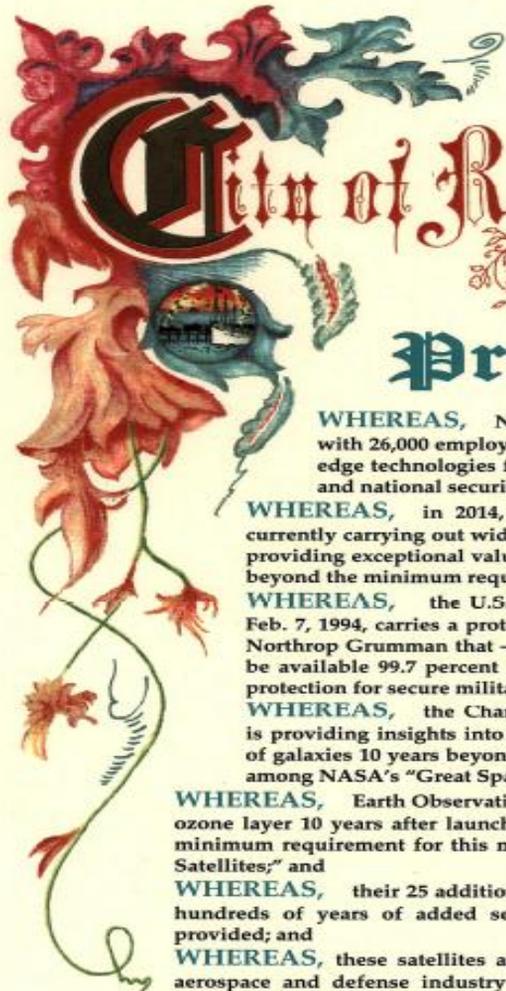
Aura is Latin for breeze and was launched July 15, 2004. It carries four instruments that monitor global climate change, most notably the Earth's ozone layer and the life-sustaining atmosphere's chemistry and dynamics.

The first Milstar protected communications satellite, launched Feb. 7, 1994, gave U.S. national and military leaders a new capability: assured communications day or night, without detection or interception under any level of military conflict.



Northrop Grumman's Space Park facilities in Redondo Beach, Calif.

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City of Redondo Beach

State of California

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Northrop Grumman Corporation – a company with 26,000 employees based in California – has developed leading-edge technologies for space science exploration, climate monitoring and national security at its facilities in Redondo Beach, Calif.; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, three space satellites with these technologies currently carrying out widely different scientific and military missions are providing exceptional value by performing many additional years on orbit beyond the minimum required; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force's Milstar Flight 1 satellite, launched Feb. 7, 1994, carries a protected military communications payload built by Northrop Grumman that – 10 years past its design life cycle - continues to be available 99.7 percent of the time, delivering unprecedented levels of protection for secure military communications; and

WHEREAS, the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, launched July 23, 1999, is providing insights into the births and deaths of stars and the lifecycles of galaxies 10 years beyond its five-year design life cycle, earning its place among NASA's "Great Space Observatories;" and

WHEREAS, Earth Observation System Aura continues to monitor the Earth's ozone layer 10 years after launch on July 15, 2004, or five years longer than the minimum requirement for this member of NASA's "A" Train of Environmental Satellites;" and

WHEREAS, their 25 additional years of on orbit performance are among the hundreds of years of added service all Northrop Grumman spacecraft have provided; and

WHEREAS, these satellites and payloads have helped sustain and grow an aerospace and defense industry that is vital to the regional economy and to homeland security; and

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved, I Steve Aspel Mayor of Redondo Beach on behalf of the city council, recognized the extraordinary scientific discoveries and life-saving communications provided by

Chandra

Members of the City Council

Jeff Ginsburg
District 1

Bill Brand
District 2

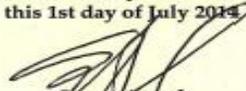
Pat Aust
District 3

Stephen Sammarco
District 4

Mathew Kilroy
District 5



Written under my hand and seal
this 1st day of July 2014



Steve Aspel
Mayor