

# ESIP Federation

A Network for Data Sharing, Community Networking  
Technology Diffusion and Professional Collaboration

Sponsored By:



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# The Landscape



*"My data system isn't speaking to  
your data system."*



# ESIP Federation

- Formed in 1998 by NASA
  - NRC seeded the idea of a federation
  - Funding: NASA, NOAA, and EPA
  - Others Involved: USGS, NSF, DOE and USDA
- Consortium of 115 Earth/Environmental Science & IT Partners
  - Type I (data centers)
  - Type II (researchers & science tool developers)
  - Type III (application developers – commercial & nonprofit)
  - Type IV (sponsors)
- Data- and technology-centric community
  - Continuum of interests
  - Neutral forum for community networking, collaboration & problem solving
  - Limited (so far) international participation

# Primary Goals

- Increase the use and impact of Earth science data and information
  - ... by leveraging existing and new technologies
  - .... in order to make information accessible and usable to anyone who wants it and
  - ..... allow it to be driven by consensus-based community expertise.



# The ESIP Way

- Open
  - Sharing from day 1
- Innovative
  - No institutional barriers
  - Results for \$5K!
- Distributed
  - Collaborative solutions
- Participatory
  - Collaborating peers
- **Voluntary**





# Why Work Together?

- Share and leverage expert capabilities
- Enable each partner to focus on core expertise
  - ‘Contract’ capabilities from trusted partners
- Encourage free flow of ideas within natural groupings
  - Communities of practice
- Support for future work through exposure

All done for the good of the order



# ESIP Activities

- Technical
  - Systems Interoperability (standards, metadata)
  - Semantic Technologies
  - Web Services
  - Data Preservation and Stewardship
  - Workshops
- Societal Benefits
  - Air Quality and Water (active)
  - Energy and Climate (starting up)
- Environmental Decision Making
  - Interdisciplinary
  - Outreach to User Communities



# ESIP Federation Successes

- Building Communities
  - Facilitating Interagency Activities
    - NASA, NOAA, EPA, USGS use ESIP forum to advance common interests
  - Community-driven IT contributions to GEOSS
  - Best Practices (data formats; DOIs; data citation)
  - Supporting Broader Efforts (GEOSS)
  - Education – linking scientists with K-12 teachers and curriculum developers
    - Promoting data use by teachers and students



# What's In It for NSF & Observatories?

- An Established, Growing, Flexible & Vibrant Organization
- Forum for Exchange Outside the Agency
- The Community
  - Expertise
  - Partnerships
  - Define the agenda
  - Peer Learning – Pooling Knowledge
  - Lessons Learned from the Broader Community
  - Technology Diffusion/Reuse
- Maturing Governance Model



# Ways to Get Involved

- Meetings
  - July 20-23, 2010 at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville
  - January 4-6, 2011 in Washington, DC
- Committees, Working Groups, Clusters
  - Monthly telecons
  - Other collaborations
- Become a Partner
- Stop by Poster and Find Out More



# Questions?

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