



A Message that Bears Repeating — The Argos Constellation Needs Your Help

It's not often that we place such emphasis on a particular issue, but the effects of having a diminished Argos satellite constellation could be severe.

PROBLEM: Two NOAA satellites carrying Argos modules are operating well past their expected mission lifetimes. Still functioning normally, NOAA-15 was launched in 1998 with a life expectancy of 3–4 years, while NOAA-18 continues its drift away from the early-morning orbit. These issues have the potential to **negatively affect thousands of Argos satellite tracking programs worldwide.**

Although no data exist indicating these aging satellites are failing, operational lifetimes of other similar satellites suggest that the end may be near. Loss of these satellites would create a significant gap in PTT positioning and data transmission. NOAA has received funding and has budgeted to launch an additional satellite. But there is great concern that the two current satellites might fail before the new launch.

SOLUTION: Launch another satellite as soon as possible.

PROBLEM WITH THE SOLUTION: NOAA budgeted (U.S. Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 budget) to launch an additional satellite carrying an Argos module, originally scheduled for 2019, but changes to the budget have **delayed this launch until 2021.**

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Join the Argos Alliance. Argos Alliance is a consortium of international Argos users who have a unified voice to support the continued investments in the Argos system. Please see the CLS America website for more information.

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CHRISTIANE HOWEY RISING SCHOLAR AWARD

To honor the life of Christiane Howey, her incredible dedication to our company, and her passion for conservation and helping researchers worldwide, we created the Rising Scholar Award. This annual award is intended to foster career development in researchers starting on their professional journeys.

In celebration of our 25th anniversary and the impressive quality of all of our applicants this year, our selection committee decided to award the scholarship to two candidates, one marine-related and one avian proposal. While both winners are Ph.D. students dedicated to environmental education and using integrative approaches to answer conservation questions, their species and study environments could not be more different. **Nishant Kumar**, from Oxford, U.K., will study black kites (*Milvus migrans*)

in densely human-populated areas in, and around, India's capital city of Delhi and during their long-distance migrations. **Katrina Phillips**, from the University of Central Florida, U.S.A., will study juvenile loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the Gulf of Mexico to examine ontogenetic shifts between coastal and oceanic phases.

Congratulations to both of our winners! Your early career dedication and enthusiasm would make Christiane very proud, and we are excited to follow along with your progress throughout the year.

Interested in applying for the 2018 Rising Scholar Award?

See our upcoming Spring 2017 edition of *Tracker News* or visit www.microwavetelemetry.com for our call for proposals.



Nishant Kumar (top) and Katrina Phillips (bottom).



Bits & Pieces

Our office will be closed 24 December – 1 January 2017. Happy Holidays!

There are no longer any additional costs to add Ground Track to your transmitters. GT™ is FREE!

To celebrate the holiday season, we are making donations to initiatives that support budding scientists.

Contact us if you are organizing a meeting in 2017 and would like us to sponsor a student to attend your meeting.