**International Space Station Earth Observations Working Group**

William L. Stefanov, PhD; Associate ISS Program Scientist for Earth Observations  
Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Division, Exploration Integration and Science  
Directorate, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas 77058 USA; william.l.stefanov@nasa.gov

Koki Oikawa; Head, JEM-EF Payload Mission Group  
Space Environment Utilization Center, Human Spaceflight Mission Directorate  
Tsukuba Space Center, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-8505 Japan; oikawa.koki@jaxa.jp

The multilateral Earth Observations Working Group (EOWG) was chartered in May 2012 in order to  
improve coordination and collaboration of Earth observing payloads, research, and applications on the  
International Space Station (ISS). The EOWG derives its authority from the ISS Program Science Forum,  
and a NASA representative serves as a permanent co-chair. A rotating co-chair position can be occupied  
by any of the international partners, following concurrence by the other partners; a JAXA representative  
is the current co-chair. Primary functions of the EOWG include, 1) the exchange of information on plans  
for payloads, from science and application objectives to instrument development, data collection,  
distribution and research; 2) recognition and facilitation of opportunities for international collaboration  
in order to optimize benefits from different instruments; and 3) provide a formal ISS Program interface  
for collection and application of remotely sensed data collected in response to natural disasters through  
the International Charter, Space and Major Disasters. Recent examples of EOWG activities include  
coordination of bilateral data sharing protocols between NASA and TsNIIMash for use of crew time and  
instruments in support of ATV5 reentry imaging activities; discussion of continued use and support of  
the Nightpod camera mount system by NASA and ESA; and review and revision of international partner  
contributions on Earth observations to the ISS Program Benefits to Humanity publication.