

## **ESIP Federation Strategic Plan - Background**

The Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP Federation) is a broad-based community drawn from agencies and individuals who collectively provide end-to-end handling for Earth science data and information<sup>1</sup>. The ESIP Federation was founded in 1998 by NASA in response to a National Research Council (NRC) review of the Earth Observation System Data and Information System (EOSDIS). During its 10-year history, the ESIP Federation has evolved from its original 24 partners to more than 100 partners at present.

In the strategic plan that follows, the ESIP Federation has updated its vision since its last plan in 2004. The 2004 strategic plan positioned the ESIP Federation to become a recognized forum for community interactions between data managers, scientists, modelers, applications developers, educators and users of Earth science data and information. The 2009 strategic plan focuses on the implementation of the vision outlined in 2004.

The 2009 strategic plan recognizes that the ESIP Federation is uniquely positioned to respond to the growing need for information to solve the Earth's pressing environmental problems and the public's interest in making better use of science information. The ESIP Federation's strength continues to come from its diverse partner organizations, including all NOAA, NASA and USGS Earth observing data centers, government research laboratories, research universities, nonprofits and commercial enterprises. The growth of the community has attracted funding from three federal agencies and the promise of others is just over the horizon.

The following strategic plan will guide the ESIP Federation for five years (2009-2013) and will be complemented by annual work plans put forth by committees, working groups and clusters from within the ESIP Federation. The strategic plan will be a living document, responding to community input throughout its life and reflecting the priorities set by partners who participate in ESIP Federation activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Earth science data refers to observations and measurements of the physical state of the planet, encompassing the atmosphere, ocean, land, cryosphere, and solid Earth components. Earth science information refers to data enhanced by the application of value-added services. These services elucidate or integrate the data content for the benefit of end users.

## ESIP Federation Strategic Plan (2009-2013)

### **VISION**

To be a leader in promoting the collection, stewardship and use of Earth science data, information and knowledge that is responsive to societal needs.

### **MISSION**

To support the networking and data dissemination needs of our members and the global community by linking the functional sectors of observation, research, application, education and ultimate use of Earth science.

#### **GOAL 1:** Increase the use and value of Earth science data and information.

- Demonstrate use through community-vetted demos, pilots and applications.
- Develop an understanding of communities' needs through outreach to user communities. (e.g., decision makers, teachers, students)
- Reduce barriers between data providers and data users through IT, training, and standards education. (e.g., technical workshops, outreach)
- Provide mechanisms for community review of data, products, applications and other resources.
- Develop and share alternative approaches to sustaining Earth science data and information networks.
- Support a service-oriented architecture for observation, research and application provision.
- Develop and share the story of how Earth science products make an impact from discovery, through development, to ultimate use. ("impact metrics")

*Stakeholders supported by Goal 1: the entire community of Earth science data and information users*

#### **GOAL 2:** Act as a facilitating, coordinating and advisory community-led organization to promote the use of Earth science data and information products for our members and the communities they support.

- Foster interactions among communities of Earth science data providers, researchers, technology developers, educators and those who put their products to practical use.
- Innovate.
- Promote use of technical standards and best practices for data management, stewardship and application development.
- Evaluate and evolve the means by which the Federation serves this goal.

*Stakeholders supported by Goal 2: ESIP Federation Partners*

#### **GOAL 3:** Continue to evolve the ESIP Federation (e.g., governance, structure, staffing) to strengthen the ties between Observations, Research and Applications.

- Recognize and encourage new leadership.
- Embrace technology to support community interaction.
- Establish metrics on organizational performance and progress that is made toward all goals in this strategic plan.

*Stakeholders supported by Goal 3: ESIP Federation Organization*

#### **GOAL 4:** Promote techniques to articulate and measure the socioeconomic value and benefit of Earth science data, information and applications. (e.g., feedback to sponsors – value of their investment)

- Create impact metrics on the value of Earth Science data and information.
- Develop metrics to describe the linkages between Observation, Research and Applications.
- Recognize and promote best practices for providing feedback to sponsors.

*Stakeholders supported by Goal 4: ESIP Federation sponsors*

Adopted by the ESIP Federation Assembly, January 30, 2009.