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(U.S.)-New Satellite Appears To Be Working Flawlessly



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/07/2013 08:47 AM

By DIRK LAMMERS

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Scientists and engineers at the U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Center say a new satellite with a mission to document the Earth's surface appears to working flawlessly.

NASA launched Landsat 8 into space aboard an Atlas 5 rocket in February.

Teams have been running the orbiter through a barrage of tests, and the satellite is now set in its orbit 438 miles above the planet's surface.

Landsat 8 will send more than 400 data-filled images per day back to the center north of Sioux Falls, where they will be archived and made available for free download.

The new orbiter has several advantages over its predecessor, boasting bands to see deeper into oceans, lakes and rivers and a band to detect cirrus clouds and correct for atmospheric effects.