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Global change research investigates the underlying processes of change and their manifestation, the impacts and the prediction of change. Monitoring these changes provides an important underpinning to both global change research and resource management. MODIS is providing systematic measurements in support of NASA's Earth Science Enterprise. High quality, consistent and well-calibrated satellite measurements are needed to detect and monitor changes and trends in these variables. Developing the next-generation data sets for global change research is the challenge given to the MODIS Science Team.



The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (**MODIS**) instrument, which was launched on the Terra platform December 18th, 1999, is designed (wide spectral range, moderate spatial resolution (250m –1km), and near daily global coverage) to observe and monitor the surface of the Earth. The second MODIS was launched on the Aqua platform on May 4, 2002.

In addition to advising on the instrument specifications and design, the MODIS Land Group (MODLAND) is tasked with developing algorithms and generating and validating the data products. These higher order data products have been designed to remove the burden of certain common types of data processing from the user community and meet the more general needs of global-to-regional monitoring, modeling, and assessment.



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