



Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here



[UFOs](#) | [Paranormal](#) | [Area 51](#)
[People](#) | [Places](#) | [Random](#)
[Top 100](#) | [What's New](#)
[Catalog](#) | [New Books](#)

Search... for keyword(s)

in Page Titles

Our Bookstore
is [OPEN](#)

[Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1999](#) -> [Jul](#) -> Here

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Satellite Question

From: David Rudiak <DRudiak@aol.com>
Date: Fri, 16 Jul 1999 03:17:36 EDT
Fwd Date: Fri, 16 Jul 1999 08:47:45 -0400
Subject: Re: Satellite Question

From: Scott C. Carr <sardonica@erols.com>
Date: Tue, 13 Jul 1999 12:37:39 -0400
Fwd Date: Wed, 14 Jul 1999 00:44:23 -0400
Subject: Satellite Question

>Why is it that we can see satellites? (Or at least some
>satellites?) Do they reflect the light of the Sun? Or do they
>have lights of their own? If they do have lights, why? What
>purpose do they serve?

Nearly all satellites are passively visible from reflected
sunlight. The only satellites that I'm aware of that carried
their own lights for visibility were the GEOS series of geodetic
mapping satellites launched between 1965 and 1975, which had
flashing beacons.

Source: <http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/multi/explorer.html>

NASA web site on GEOS I (Explorer 29) and GEOS II (Explorer 36):

GEOS 1
NSSDC ID: 65-089A

Other Name(s)

•Explorer 29 •GEOS-A •01726

Launch Date/Time: 1965-11-06 at 18:43:00 UTC
On-orbit dry mass: 387.00 kg

Description

The GEOS 1 (Geodetic Earth Orbiting Satellite) spacecraft was a
gravity-gradient-stabilized, solar-cell powered unit designed
exclusively for geodetic studies. It was the first successful
active spacecraft of the National Geodetic Satellite Program.
Instrumentation included:

- (1) four optical beacons
- (2) laser reflectors
- (3) a radio range transponder
- (4) Doppler beacons, and

(5) a range and range rate transponder.

These were designed to operate simultaneously to fulfill the objectives of locating observation points (geodetic control stations) in a three dimensional earth center-of-mass coordinate system within 10 m of accuracy, of defining the structure of the earth's irregular gravitational field and refining the locations and magnitudes of the large gravity anomalies, and of comparing results of the various systems onboard the spacecraft to determine the most accurate and reliable system.

Acquisition and recording of data were the responsibility of the GSFC Space Tracking and Data Acquisitions Network (STADAN).

Ten major observing networks were used.

GEOS 2
NSSDC ID: 68-002A

Other Name(s)

•Explorer 36 •GEOS-B •03093

Launch Date/Time: 1968-01-11 at 16:19:00 UTC
On-orbit dry mass: 469.00 kg

Description

The GEOS 2 (Geodetic Earth Orbiting Satellite) was a gravity-gradient-stabilized, solar-cell-powered spacecraft that carried electronic and geodetic instrumentation.

The geodetic instrumentation systems included

- (1) four optical beacons
- (2) two C-band radar transponders
- (3) a passive radar reflector
- (4) a sequential collation of range radio range transponder
- (5) a Goddard range and range rate transponder
- (6) laser reflectors, and
- (7) Doppler beacons.

Non-geodetic systems included a laser detector and a Minitrack interferometer beacon.

The objectives of the spacecraft were to optimize optical station visibility periods and to provide complementary data for inclination-dependent terms established by the Explorer 29 (GEOS 1) gravimetric studies.

The spacecraft was placed into a retrograde orbit to accomplish these objectives. Operational problems occurred in the main power system, optical beacon flash system, and the spacecraft clock, and adjustments in scheduling resulted in nominal operations.

David Rudiak

[[Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#) | [This Day's Messages](#)]
[[This Month's Index](#) | [UFO UpDates Main Index](#) | [MUFON Ontario](#)]

UFO UpDates - Toronto - updates@globalserve.net

Operated by Errol Bruce-Knapp - ++ 416-696-0304

A Hand-Operated E-Mail Subscription Service for the Study of UFO Related Phenomena.

To subscribe please send your first and last name to updates@globalserve.net

Message submissions should be sent to the same address.

[[UFO Topics](#) | [People](#) | [Ufomind What's New](#) | [Ufomind Top Level](#)]

To find this message again in the future...

Link it to the appropriate [Ufologist](#) or [UFO Topic](#) page.

Archived as a public service by [Area 51 Research Center](#) which is not responsible for content.

Software by Glenn Campbell. Technical contact: webmaster@ufomind.com

Financial support for this web server is provided by the [Research Center Catalog](#).