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First Light Results from AIRS on EOS Aqua

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The Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) is a cross-track scanning infrared spectrometer which covers the 3.7 - 15.4 micron spectral range with 2378 spectral channels. It was launched into 705 km 1:30 pm ascending node polar orbit from Vandenberg AFB on 18 April 2002. We present first light results of the on-orbit instrument performance, radiance validation and sample data release plans.