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Results from the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) on the EOS Aqua one year after launch.

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The Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) was launched into polar orbit on the EOS Aqua spacecraft on May 4, 2002. Since September 2002, following the on-orbit calibration and performance validation phase, the AIRS has been gathering 4 million upwelling spectra each day. The 0.1K radiometric accuracy and $1:10^7$ spectral stability demonstrated by AIRS matches the performance expected of a cooled grating array spectrometer and required for climate research. The calibrated radiances are being distributed to the AIRS science team and the numerical weather forecasting centers for further critical evaluation, for the retrieval of standard geophysical products and forecast impact assessment. As of July 2003 all AIRS data are available to scientific investigators from the GSFC/DAAC.

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