

HIRAD TO MEASURE TROPICAL STORM ERIKA FOR TROPICAL CYCLONE INTENSIFICATION (TCI) EXPERIMENT (email to: daniel.j.cecil@nasa.gov / 256-961-

7549): The Hurricane Imaging Radiometer (HIRAD) has been installed on a NASA WB-57 aircraft at Ellington Field in Houston, TX, along with a dropsonde system to be used in the Tropical Cyclone Intensification (TCI) experiment throughout the 2015 hurricane season. HIRAD will be used to measure ocean surface wind speed, with the dropsondes characterizing the vertical profile of the atmosphere in hurricanes and developing tropical storms. The WB-57 is scheduled to forward-deploy to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL Thursday 27 August, for subsequent flights measuring Tropical Storm Erika over the weekend and possibly into next week. The current (highly uncertain) forecast has TS Erika becoming a hurricane as it approaches the Bahamas Saturday morning.

NASA APPLIED SCIENCES: DISASTER PROGRAM MEETING TO BE HELD AT MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER (email to: andrew.molthan@nasa.gov/256-961-

7474): The NASA Applied Sciences: Disasters Program will host a workshop at the National Space Science Technology Center (NSSTC) from September 28-29 to bring together approximately 30 NASA civil servants, for review of recent successes in disaster response activities ranging from the 2015 Nepal Earthquake, to previous efforts in response to oil spills, tropical cyclones, tornadoes, and other hazards. The MSFC-hosted workshop follows a workshop hosted at JPL in late July, which focused exclusively on aspects of the Agency-wide response to the Nepal earthquake. The first half of the September two-day workshop will explore commonalities among the successes (or weaknesses) in response to these events, towards identifying best practices and appropriate organizational strategies that will inform the implementation of a NASA Agency-wide Disaster Response Plan. The second half will involve discussion among attendees on a path forward for implementing the response plan, including identification of key participations, Center capabilities, and a response framework. Efforts will identify NASA's key capabilities in science and remote sensing areas as they relate to disasters requiring domestic and international response efforts.