

TRACKING AND DATA RELAY SATELLITE SYSTEM (TDRSS) SYSTEM OVERVIEW AND REIMBURSABLE USE

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ABSTRACT

The first satellite (TDRS-1) of the three-satellite TDRSS was launched by NASA in April 1983. A booster failure resulted in a delay in achieving the final synchronous orbiting position (until the following October) and has caused a delay in the launching of the second and third satellites. Nevertheless, NASA has obtained considerable operational experience with TDRS-1 and is generally pleased with the performance to date. This paper will provide an overview of how the TDRSS operates and its status, and will provide information about the policy, costs, and procedures regarding use of the system by non-NASA organizations.