



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Tracking and Data Relay Satellites
System (TDRSS) Documentation

2003

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Tracking and Data Relay Satellites System (TDRSS) Documentation
Identifier:	NASM.2002.0046
Date:	1976-1979
Extent:	0.9 Cubic feet ((2 letter document boxes, 1 slim letter document box))
Creator:	Contel Federal Systems, Fairfax, VA
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Daniel K. Elliot, Gift, 2002

Preferred Citation

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Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Tracking and Data Relay Satellites (TDRS) are the largest, most advanced privately developed communications satellites. TDRS provide global coverage of Earth-orbiting spacecraft. In the past, spacecraft could communicate with Earth only when they were in sight of a ground tracking station, typically less than one fifth of the time. The TDRS system enables spacecraft to communicate with Earth for about 85 to 100 percent of the orbit by having a system of orbiting telecommunication satellites operated from a single ground terminal link. The first TDRS was launched from Kennedy Space Center on April 4, 1983. TDRS is owned and operated by the Technical Services Division of Contel Federal Systems, Fairfax, VA. However, its services are being leased to NASA for a ten-year period.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains TDRSS documentation from the years 1976 through 1979. Materials include: a Pricing Manual, a Program Acronym List, Program Space Segment Specifications, a Baseline Report, Project Plans, a Proposal Kickoff Package, the Proposal Preparation, a Test Plan, the Review Boards Notebook, a Shuttle User Draft, Contracts, a System Design Report, Performance Specifications, a Statement of Work, and Flow Diagrams.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Artificial satellites
- Astronautics
- Communications equipment
- Space vehicles
- Tracking and Data Relay Satellites System (TDRSS)

Types of Materials:

- Diagrams
- Lists
- Reports
- Specifications

Names:

- United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration