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## Media Advisory

May 29, 2012

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*Senator Tim Johnson to Join NASA and USGS Officials at EROS Event*

## EROS Center to Assume Operational Control of Landsat 8 Satellite

Top officials from NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey will be at the USGS EROS Center in Sioux Falls on Thursday as the operational control of the Landsat 8 Earth observation satellite is transferred from NASA to the USGS and EROS. Starting on Thursday, the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Center (EROS) will collect at least 400 Landsat 8 scenes per day from around the world to be processed and archived at the EROS facility north of Sioux Falls. EROS specialists will also provide more than two million current and historical Landsat images per year free to users over the Internet.

For 40 years, the Landsat series of satellites have provided images of the Earth's landscape as seen from space to help scientists monitor changes to the land and inform decision-makers of critical trends in the conditions of natural resources. Landsat 8 and its state-of-the-art instrumentation will allow that 40-year record to continue and extend this remarkable record of the Earth to over a half-century.

**WHO:** U.S. Senator Tim Johnson; Mike Freilich, NASA Earth Science Division Director; Suzette Kimball, USGS Acting Director; Colleen Hartman, NASA Deputy Director for Science, Operations, and Performance Management; Frank Kelly, EROS Director, and others

**WHAT:** News conference and transition ceremony for Landsat 8 Satellite

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** USGS EROS Center, 47914 252nd Street, Sioux Falls

**Call-in number:** 605-594-6980  
access code – 530#

Directions: Interstate 90 east to Exit 402 (Hwy. 121), north on Hwy 121 10 miles to 252<sup>nd</sup> St (Hwy 122), east 1 mile to EROS Center

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