



## Evaluation of NOAA's Progress Implementing the GeoXO Satellite Program

Evaluation Report OIG-26-009-I

March 9, 2026

➤ **What We Evaluated** | Our objective was to assess the progress of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in implementing the Geostationary Extended Observations (GeoXO) weather satellite program. We also evaluated NOAA's efforts to address the risk of a future gap in geostationary observations, and we assessed the program's risk management processes.

➤ **Why This Matters** | GeoXO represents the next generation of NOAA's geostationary weather satellites. Its purpose is to provide observational continuity as the current satellite series nears the end of its operational lifetime.

Geostationary satellites gather data that is primarily used for short-term weather forecasts and real-time tracking of storm systems and environmental hazards such as fires, smoke, and fog. Continuous observational coverage is essential for weather forecasts and warnings; a gap in the data could impair NOAA's ability to track and issue warnings about severe weather. Beyond this, the program needs to manage risk if it is to be successful and decrease the likelihood of schedule delays, cost overruns, and performance issues.

➤ **What We Found** | We found that the GeoXO program has made adequate progress in its current phase of development and that it is achieving the desired technology maturity. However, NOAA should consider enhancing its continuity planning and risk management processes by:

- Managing the risk of a continuity gap in geostationary satellite data, as the current series's backup satellites are likely to reach the end of their lifespans before the first GeoXO satellite becomes operational
- Improving risk management processes to ensure the mission's success

➤ **What We Recommend** | We made six recommendations to NOAA to mitigate the risk of a continuity gap and improve the GeoXO program's risk management. NOAA concurred with all six recommendations but asserted that program restructuring has affected the applicability of two recommendations. We did not evaluate the restructuring; however, the recommendations remain valid because they address processes that must be implemented to adequately manage risk over the life of the program.