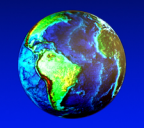
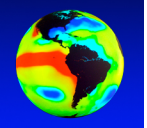
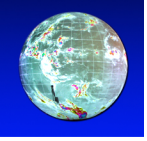
Science On a Sphere®







System Basics

Q. What is NOAA's *Science On a Sphere* (SOS)?

Seen by millions of people all over the world, Science On a Sphere is a large visualization system that uses computers and video projectors to display animated data onto the outside of a sphere. Said another way, SOS is a globe that shows dynamic, animated images of the atmosphere, oceans, and land of a planet. Many displays are possible, limited only by the imagination.

Q. Where can I see a demonstration of a SOS system?

Current NOAA installations include the David Himes Planet Theater® at the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. Additional systems are being installed at a growing number of museums, science centers, and universities throughout the U.S. and the world. See *sos.noaa.gov/What_is_SOS/sites.php* for a current list of installations, with some photographs.

Q. How is Science On a Sphere used at NOAA?

Science On a Sphere is used primarily as an education and outreach tool to describe the environmental processes of the Earth. At the NOAA Lab in Boulder, Colorado, SOS is included as part of nearly all public outreach activities. School groups on field trips, graduate and undergraduate students from local universities, researchers, and other visitors all have an opportunity to see SOS on prearranged tours of that facility. The typical SOS program is given by a live presenter.

Q. What constitutes a Science On a Sphere system?

The SOS system uses four video projectors to display images onto a 68" diameter sphere. The projectors are driven by a relatively powerful PC with multi-core processors and high end graphics cards. The system uses high resolution video projectors. An audio system is included for recorded presentations.

Q. Where can I find additional information on Science On a Sphere?

The best place to start is our website, *sos.noaa.gov*.
Introductory videos can be found at *sos.noaa.gov/What_is_SOS/video_table.html.*
For information on the basic SOS floorplan, go to *sos.noaa.gov/Docs/SOSFloorplan.pdf.*
For teacher information, see *sos.noaa.gov/Education*
To see a list of the datasets and visualizations included with SOS, go to *sos.noaa.gov/Datasets*.

Q. Who do I contact to discuss specific questions I may have for my museum or science center?

Start with contacting John Schneider at *john.p.schneider@noaa.gov* or +1.303.497.4646.
He will answer your questions or give you access to someone who can.