

NASA Statement to NBC Bay Area Investigative Unit

April 29, 2022

GEDI received an extension beyond its prime mission in March 2021 so the science team could meet their science requirements. Those requirements are expected to be met ahead of the planned end of its manifest on the space station.

If there was space available on the space station, NASA would consider a mission extension. However, GEDI is scheduled to be replaced by a new experiment (STP-H9) launching on a future SpaceX cargo resupply mission for NASA. While GEDI observations can support calibration of NISAR and BIOMASS, they are not required for the success of those missions. We can use the existing GEDI data for NISAR calibration assuming the forests don't change too much between the time of GEDI observations and NISAR calibration phase.

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