

EARTH

Unlike most satellite images of Earth, this one was not assembled from multiple swath scans or digitally projected onto a globe model — it's the full disk of our planet captured as a single, enormous 121 megapixel image, acquired by Russia's Elektro-L weather-forecasting satellite.

Elektro-L is parked in a geostationary orbit approximately 36,000 km (22,300 miles) above our planet. Unlike NASA's satellites, however, Elektro-L captures images in near-infrared as well as visible wavelengths, providing detail about not only cloud movement but also vegetation variations. At a resolution of 0.62 miles per pixel, full-size Elektro-L images are some of the most detailed images of Earth acquired by a weather satellite.

Download the full-size image [here](#) (100+ megabytes).

