On 18th December 1999 the Terra platform was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force base carrying the Measurements Of Pollution In The Troposphere (MOPITT) instrument. MOPITT has now completed ten years of operation measuring carbon monoxide (CO) over the planet.

The MOPITT instrument has performed well over the eleven years of the Terra mission collecting more than 2 billion measurements over the globe. The instrument stability has been outstanding and, despite a few anomalies over the mission, it has proved possible to make an almost complete record of CO over the planet since early 2000. Recently the MOPITT team have succeeded in extracting useful data from a second set of observation channels that have a higher sensitivity to near-surface CO and this has extended the utility of the data considerably. As the Terra mission moves into its second decade, the MOPITT instrument appears capable of continuing the measurements for many years to come.

MOPITT was provided to the Terra spacecraft by the Canadian Space Agency and was built by COMDEV of Cambridge, Ontario. Data processing is performed by the MOPITT team at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO. Instrument control is by the team at the University of Toronto.