

Status of EROS Data Users Center  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

February 16, 1971

Background

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has been identified by the Administration as a desirable location for a processing and distribution facility and designated as the site for a Data Receiving Center for the ERTS-EROS Program.

Geological Survey's FY 1971 appropriation includes \$300,000 specifically for the development of the data users center.

Geological Survey has identified a suitable site in Sioux Falls after conducting topographic, geologic, hydrologic and electronic-interference surveys.

The Industrial and Development Foundation of Sioux Falls (non-profit) has acquired the proposed site and donated it to the Government in a Presidential ceremony on October 26, 1970. They have offered to construct a facility thereon and lease it to the Government, with option to purchase.

OMB (Weinberger) wrote to Governor Farrar on December 22, 1970 notifying him that the Geological Survey will be proceeding to support the conduct of an architect-engineer study in FY 1971 for the proposed data center.

Status

Interior, following GSA practice, considered five architectural firms in Sioux Falls and decided on two firms as the most qualified. An announcement of the successful completion of negotiations was made on February 15, 1971 (see attached press release).

A recently completed study by an interagency task force under NASC has endorsed the Sioux Falls facility as necessary for a meaningful evaluation of the ERTS experiment. ERTS-A is scheduled to fly in the spring 1972.