



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242

Memorandum

APR 2 - 1971

To: EROS Program Manager
Chief Topographic Engineer

From: Director

Subject: EROS Data Center

It is necessary that we continue aggressively with planning and construction of a Data Center in Sioux Falls, S.D., to receive, process, evaluate, catalogue, and disseminate data obtained from ERTS (Earth Resources Technology Satellite) and other related sources, under the Department of the Interior EROS (Earth Resources Observation Systems) Program.

Land for the Center near Sioux Falls, S.D., has been transferred to the U.S. Government by the Sioux Falls Industrial and Development Foundation. That organization has further offered to construct the needed facilities for the Government on a lease-purchase basis. Several details are yet to be worked out, however, in order for the Survey to acquire the land and lease the buildings that are to be constructed. Planning for overall development and site utilization should provide for the eventual construction of facilities for direct reception of telemetered data from satellites, but the immediate design and construction will be limited to installations for data handling.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The EROS Data Center will be organizationally structured as an element of the Topographic Division, responsive to Bureau and Department program objectives and review. Inasmuch as the Topographic Division has much of the expertise necessary to operate such a Center, and has traditionally provided basic data of the type to be generated by the EROS Program for the Survey and other users, I am assigning the major tasks for establishing and managing the Data Center to the Chief Topographic Engineer. The Special Assistant for Office and Laboratory Facilities (W. A. Schmidt) will serve in an active advisory role during planning and construction. The attached chart "EROS Program Management Structure for the EROS Data Center" shows the basic structure of responsibilities.

The EROS Program Manager will define broad program policy and objectives representing Bureau, Department, and other Federal user requirements and interdisciplinary uses, and will provide and direct the professional assistance and training services at the Center. Close liaison and coordination will continue between the CTE and the EROS Program Manager during planning, construction, system implementation, and Data Center operations. Specific responsibilities will include:

EROS Program Manager

- o Policy guidance and definition of overall program objectives and constraints.
- o Review and approval of specifications for equipment, systems, concepts, and product quality.
- o Review and approval of schedules and budgets associated with implementing and conducting Data Center operations.
- o Evaluation of accomplishment of Data Center Program objectives in terms of the total EROS Program.
- o Provision of direction, fiscal control, operating budgets, and personnel for user training and professional assistance activities.
- o Determination of priorities for collection and dissemination of data from satellite and related aircraft programs.
- o Liaison with NASA and user agencies.

Chief Topographic Engineer

- o Provision of all necessary management for the Center, including fiscal control and preparation of operating budgets, except as noted above.
- o Definition of Data Center systems complex as required to achieve phased program objectives; preparation of work statements and specifications for acquisition of systems equipment; and related contract monitoring.
- o Definition of Data Center structural, mechanical, and environmental control requirements.
- o Liaison and coordination in support of architect-engineer contract; and monitoring of construction--in close coordination with the Special Assistant for Office and Laboratory Facilities.

- o Establishing, monitoring, and control of schedules for site construction and acceptance, equipment delivery and installation, systems integration and demonstration of performance of components.
- o Determination of operating procedures, standards for work to be performed, and quality controls.
- o Provision for required services and data direct to users.
- o Provision for required personnel.
- o Development of plans to incorporate related functions now being performed in the Topographic Division (such as the sale of aerial photograph reproductions) into the Data Center.

STATUS

Six studies with respect to the Center have been completed under contract to the Geological Survey, and will be used as a guide in planning--

- 1) Ground Data-Handling System Study (Phase I), December 15, 1968 - RCA.
- 2) User Data Processing Study (Phase II), October 28, 1969 - RCA.
- 3) Ground Data-Handling System Study for the Earth Resources Observation Satellite (Phase II, Modification no. 1), Data Center Location Analysis, January 27, 1970 - RCA.
- 4) Preliminary Functional Description of the Earth Resources Data Center, October 15, 1970 - Aerospace.
- 5) Preliminary Facility Technical Criteria for the Earth Resources Data Center, November 2, 1970 - Aerospace.
- 6) Phase I Final Report, Systems Management Assistance to the EROS Project, November 16, 1970 - Aerospace.

The RCA contract was amended on October 28, 1969, to provide for a 90-day study to determine the optimum location of the Data Center.

PLAN OF ACTION

The Chief Topographic Engineer will proceed immediately to assign personnel; prepare work statements for architectural design contracts;

and establish schedules and budgets. A temporary facility should be established on location as soon as feasible. This facility should include the capability to produce color photographic reproductions and serve as a field office during construction of the Center. Plans should provide for construction of the center to begin as soon as possible. It should be operational on March 1, 1972, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

During the period of the ERTS experiment, funds for development and operation of the Center will be included in the SIR appropriations for the EROS Program. Personnel ceilings, necessary to support operational requirements of the Data Center will be furnished from EROS Program ceilings and will be in addition to projected Topographic Division personnel ceilings.

Because the EROS Program office is required to furnish periodic reports to NASA and to coordinate programs, plans, and budgets with other offices and agencies working in the remote sensing field, the Chief Topographic Engineer should keep the EROS Program office informed of plans, expenditures and rate of progress. Sufficient warning of developing problem areas should also be given to the EROS Program office so that appropriate actions may be taken where needed. Also the EROS Program Manager should keep the Chief Topographic Engineer informed of all matters coming to the attention of his staff that relate to the Data Center.

By copy of this memorandum, the Assistant Director for Administration is requested to provide the necessary support for contract and procurement services to insure that schedules are met with a minimum of delay.



Director

Attachment

cc: Asst. Director for Administration
Special Asst. for Office & Laboratory Facilities
General Files
Dir Chron
3/4/6/7/20
Topo Files
✓50 (RT-PD-Doyle-Landis)

EROS Program Management Structure
for the EROS Data Center

