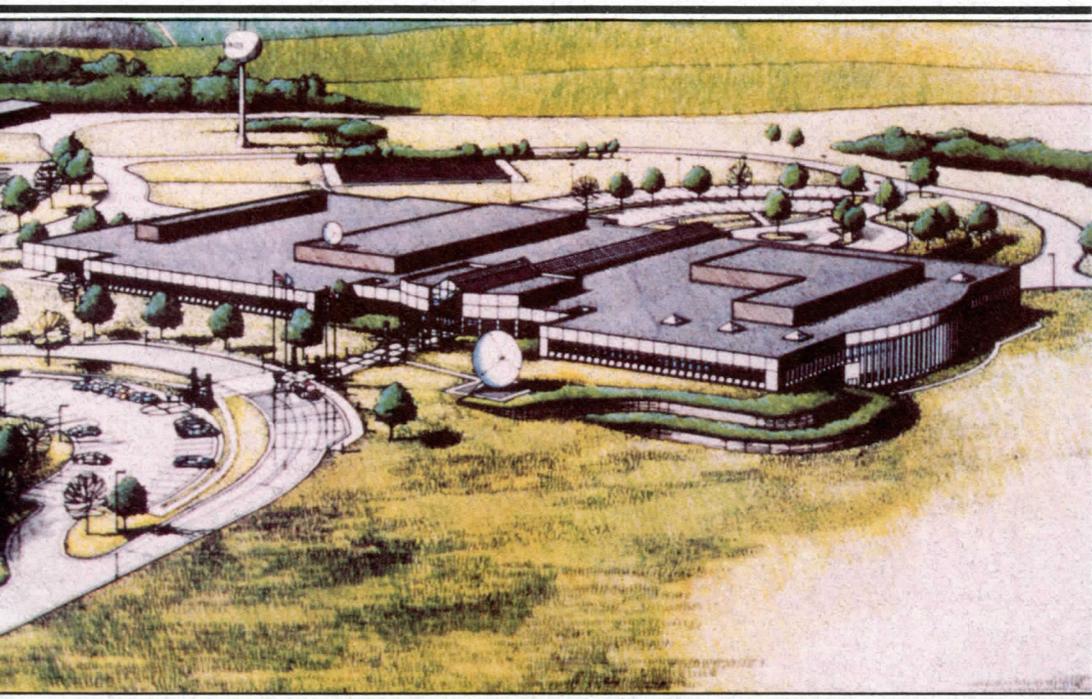


GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

FOR THE
BUILDING ADDITION
AT THE
EROS DATA CENTER



NATIONAL MAPPING DIVISION
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
IN COOPERATION WITH
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

MAY 31, 1994



PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies

ALLEN H. WATKINS

Chief, National Mapping Division

U.S. Geological Survey

Welcoming Remarks

STEVE KIRBY

Lt. Governor, State of South Dakota

Introduction of Guests

Remarks

Congress of the United States

SENATOR LARRY PRESSLER

SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

CONGRESSMAN TIM JOHNSON

Remarks Continued

U.S. Department of the Interior

DEBRA S. KNOPMAN

Deputy Asst. Secretary for Water and Science

U.S. Geological Survey

GORDON P. EATON

Director

DONALD T. LAUER

Chief, EROS Data Center

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

DIXON M. BUTLER

*Director, Operations, Data and Information Systems Division
Office of Mission to Planet Earth*

Groundbreaking

Adjourn

Interviews with the Press

The Data Center was built in the early 1970s primarily to receive, process, and distribute land remote sensing data acquired by our Nation's civilian Earth observation satellites, and the new 65,000-square-foot addition will allow the Center to better meet these responsibilities for the remainder of this decade and into the next century.

The new building addition will support the long standing partnership between the USGS and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and will serve as the data archive, processing, and distribution facility for land data to be acquired later this decade by the Earth Observing System (EOS), a major part of NASA's Mission to Planet Earth. Space in the new addition will be provided for high performance computer systems, advanced telecommunications networks, and skilled personnel required to process and distribute EOS land data through the EOS Data and Information System. These data will be used by researchers to study the Earth as an integrated system and by others for mapping the extent and distribution of natural resources, monitoring land surface changes, and assessing environmental conditions.

In addition, the new building will provide more space for the Department of the Interior's National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive, which already includes more than 8 million aerial photos and over 2 million satellite images of the Earth. The National Archive holds data acquired by the Landsat series of Earth observation satellites, and plans are currently being made between the USGS, NASA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to use the new facilities to process and distribute data from Landsat 7, planned for launch in about 4 years from now.