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Landsat file

cc: Sr. Staff

# Landsat World Update

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**LANDSAT PROGRAM STATUS** - Landsat 4 and 5 continue to operate nominally. The EOSAT/Commerce contract for the construction and launch of Landsat 6 is nearing final review by congressional authorization/appropriations committees, and is expected to be released prior to April 1.

**ROE APPLAUDS LANDSAT AGREEMENT** - Congressman Robert A. Roe (D-NJ), Chairman of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology, has stated that the agreement between NOAA and EOSAT for the construction and launch of Landsat 6 "represents a major step in assuring that the United States maintains its presence in the field of Earth imaging." In a news release March 9, Roe stated that "the modified contract removes the uncertainty hanging over our remote sensing program and enables EOSAT to remain competitive in the international arena." The Committee, which authorizes funding for Landsat, held two days of hearings last spring on the future of Landsat, and has been active in securing Administration support for the program.

**BRAZIL AND CHINA TO BUILD REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE** - The Brazil Space Activities Commission and China's Academy of Space Sciences and Technology have agreed to build and launch a 20-meter remote sensing satellite for launch in late 1992 aboard a Chinese rocket. Brazil will contribute approximately \$80 million to satellite development, and will be entitled to 30% of the satellite's services. Brazilian scientists have started research activities after initial appropriation of \$45 million was awarded by the Commission. (source: Space Commerce Bulletin, 3/4/88)

**NEW LANDSAT PRODUCTS IN DEMAND** - EOSAT's Market Planning office reports that sales of the new Geocoded TM products has been brisk, and better than expected. Introduced last fall, these new products offer digital data with custom map projection and rotation. "The customers are very happy with the Geocoded products- they are even more accurate than originally advertised," said Dr. Matthew Willard, EOSAT Planning Director. EOSAT will also be offering a new line of photographic products beginning in early summer 1988.

**COMMERCIAL FIRM SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA** - The Indonesian Government Department of Geological and Mineral Surveys has signed a \$1.25 million contract with DIPIX Systems Ltd. of Canada to supply a new system to aid in land use planning and mineral exploration through analysis of satellite remote sensing imagery. The contract was negotiated through a program funded by the Asian Development Bank. Previously, monitoring and mapping of Indonesia's 13,000 islands and numerous active volcanoes has been hindered by inaccessibility and associated costs. The new system (ARIES III + Image Analysis system) will give Indonesia one of the largest and most advanced image analysis systems in Southeast Asia. (source: Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, February, 1988)

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**LANDSAT DETECTS CHEVRON SAND MOVEMENT** - Enhanced Landsat images of the Western Desert of Egypt have revealed large sand formations that are transported by the wind in broad, shallow layers. These "chevrons" (named for the resulting zig-zag shapes) may be responsible for the majority of sand encroachment or 'desertification' of regions in northern Sudan and western Egypt, according to Dr. Ted Maxwell of the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the National Air and Space Museum and fellow researcher Vance Haynes of the University of Arizona. Previously, dunes were assumed to be the most active transporters of sand. Maxwell's findings may also have applications to other satellite images such as those of wind-blown streaks evident on Mars. (source: Smithsonian Institution Research Reports, winter 1988)

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECT** - The Thailand Remote Sensing Center, in cooperation with the International Rice Research Institute, is conducting a pilot project using Landsat data for mapping the rice growing areas of Kampuchea. Maps at a scale of 1:250,000 will be produced at various stages of rice growing areas, and digital analysis of dry and wet season areas will be conducted over the one year project period. (source: ESCAP/UNDP Remote Sensing Newsletter)

**MAPPING AGENCY FORMED IN THE PHILIPPINES** - The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) has been formed in the Philippines to act as the country's central mapping agency, serving government offices and expanding research in satellite and airborne remote sensing data analysis and applications. NAMRIA will be the central site for natural resources data in the form of maps, statistics, texts and charts, and will offer information services and networks to facilitate the transfer of information throughout the Philippines. (source: ESCAP/UNDP Remote Sensing Newsletter)

**SATELLITES FOR GLOBAL CHANGE STUDIES** - "To understand global change one must make global measurements, and they can only be made available from satellites," said James Baker of Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Inc. at a recent meeting on Capitol Hill which featured Francis Bretherton of the University Corp. for Atmospheric Research. Bretherton, primary author of reports on Earth systems sciences for NASA, appealed for a new congressional look at the global change problem, citing the difficulty of getting concerted action from 25-35 different congressional committees. Bretherton emphasized the need to look at the entire Earth's system, not just climate, and to establish a "knowledge base" on how the planet works, so that future generations would be able to react to global change. (source: Ocean Science News, 3/5/88)

**LANDSAT WORLD UPDATE** is a bi-weekly report to the earth remote sensing community. It contains timely information about the Landsat program, including the status of Landsats 4 and 5 and the progress of the next-generation satellite development program.

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