read 3/10/88

Landsat file cc: Sr. Staff

Landsat World Update

VOLUME 1, NO 4 MAR 7, 1988

LANDSAT PROGRAM STATUS - Landsat 4 and 5 continue to operate nominally. On March 1, **Landsat 5 began its fifth year of service.**

EOSAT and the Department of Commerce reached an agreement on February 25 for the restart of the Landsat 6 development program. After OMB release, it will be reviewed by congressional appropriations subcommittees with an expected authorization to proceed by April 1.

GEOLOGISTS USE LANDSAT TO LOCATE NEW AUSTRALIAN OIL FIELDS - A U.S. remote sensing expert—Dr. Jan Cannon of Tecumseh, Oklahoma—**used Landsat data to help identify potential new oil exploration sites** in Queensland, Australia. Landsat data provided the basis for selecting sites which were later confirmed by magnetic surface mapping. Dr. Cannon, with a group of 18 investors have authority to prospect a seven million acre area—which has been compared in potential to Alaska's Prudhoe find—in north central Queensland. Australia badly needs new oil reserves to supplement the Bass Strait oil field, where production has started to decrease. (Source: *Oil Daily,* 1/27/88)

INDIAN REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE READY FOR LAUNCH - The first in a series of Indian Remote Sensing Satellites, IRS-1A, is ready and expected to be launched by Soviet Proton rocket this month. Designed and developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) of the Department of Space (DOS), the remote sensing satellite is planned for a design life of three years. The IRS receiving station at Hyderabad provides complete coverage of India and neighboring countries.

Digital and film products from IRS-1A will be distributed from the National Remote Sensing Agency, Balanagar, Hyderabad 500 037, Andhra Pradesh, India.

EOSAT ANNOUNCES SALES REPRESENTATIVES FOR JAPAN - In response to the growing demand for remote sensing data in Japan, **EOSAT has selected two firms** to market and distribute Landsat data. Nissho Iwai Corporation (NIC) and the Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC) have been selected as EOSAT agents. NIC, with headquarters in Tokyo, is a leader in large scale natural resource and industrial development projects. RESTEC has been involved in remote sensing since 1975, and offers a wide variety of remote sensing services. Japan is the fastest growing remote sensing market in the world.

SATELLITE IMAGES USED FOR CROP YIELD PREDICTION - Results from a 1987 pilot wheat yield demonstration project suprise some! The Space Remote Sensing Center of the Institute for Technology Development (ITD) of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, showed that **Landsat data were able to accurately help predict variations in wheat yields** of 25 to 55 bushels per acre. The Landsat data provided information that was new to the farmers. In addition, the Landsat data helped identify a 20% yield loss which resulted from a late freeze. This yield reduction would have gone undetected by normal ground survey. (Source: Soybean Digest, 2/88)

CANADA APPROVES MULTI-YEAR RADAR DATA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - The Canadian Treasury Board recently **approved a multi-year remote sensing program** for support of radar data. The Program calls for the development of advanced technologies and applications for the reception, processing and analysis of radar and other remote sensing data. It is in preparation for the 1994 launch of the Canadian Radarsat satellite, and European Space Agency's ERS-1 remote sensing satellite. Radar data will be principally utilized for ice surveillance,and oceanography including ship routing. However, other disciplines like geology, agriculture, forestry, and mapping are expected to develop. (source: *CCRS Newsletter*)

COMMERCE AWARDS CONTRACT FOR STUDY OF FUTURE U.S. REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM - On March 2, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced contract awards for a six month study of advanced civil Earth remote sensing satellite systems.

Kodak Remote Sensing (KRS) of Landover, Maryland was awarded $939,962 and **The Analytical Sciences Corporation** (TASC) of Reading, Massachusetts was awarded $565,700 to perform comprehensive studies exploring various aspects of data marketing and applications, advanced instruments and data processing systems, spacecraft, launch options and alternative government/industry partnership arrangements beyond the existing Landsat system. **The Egan Group**, a Washington, D.C. consulting firm, was awarded $50,159 to perform a study focusing on the financing option for future missions.

EOSAT's study for future Landsats, which began in September 1987, is moving toward an early spring completion data. The completed report will be available for Congressional, NOAA, and industry review.

LANDSAT RELIEF MAP OF NEW MEXICO - Another example of Landsat data mapping applications has been prepared by the State of New Mexico. The map, available for $6.50 from the Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Socorro, New Mexico 87801 USA, demonstrates the incorporation of different data types to provide a comprehensive information source for the State.

***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.**

***LANDSAT WORLD UPDATE* is provided by EOSAT as a service to the remote sensing community, and no restrictions are placed on its reproduction. Any questions, comments or additions to the Update should be directed by mail to EOSAT Public Affairs Office, 4300 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706, U.S.A. or by telephone to (301) 552-0547 or (800) 344-9933 ext 547.**