



Landsat World Update

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LANDSAT PROGRAM STATUS - Landsats 4 and 5 continue to operate nominally. Landsat 6 development has been restarted at EOSAT major subcontractors GE Astro-Space Division, Hughes Santa Barbara Research Center, Odetics, Honeywell, Barnes and Perkin-Elmer, with the first spacecraft/payload integration team meeting held April 27 at GE.

SOVIETS LAUNCH EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITE - On April 20 the Soviet Union launched Cosmos 1939, an Earth resources satellite that features a "complex of optical-mechanical and optical-electronic scanning" according to the Tass News agency. The Vostok booster that launched Cosmos 1939 was the same type of vehicle that launched India's IRS-1 remote sensing satellite last month from the Tyuratam facility. Data from Cosmos 1939 is "being received by the State Research Center for Study of Natural Resources and regional computing centers for hydrometeorology" in the Soviet Union, Tass reported. (source: Aerospace Daily, 4/25/88)

INCREASED FEDERAL CONTRACTING FOR MAPPING, SURVEYING - The Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS), representing 60 private practice firms, recently met with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials to seek increased federal contracting for surveying and mapping activities. MAPPS identified programs at NOAA, USGS, BLM, Census and other agencies which could be handled through commercial firms. An Executive Order issued by President Reagan requires Federal agencies to identify commercial activities currently performed by the government and increase commercial contracting, encouraging the MAPPS/OMB agreements. Contact MAPPS at 11445 Isaac Newton Square South, Reston, VA 22090 USA; or call (703) 471-0267. (source: Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, April 1988)

SATELLITES USED TO INVESTIGATE RED TIDE - Oceanographers at NOAA are examining weather satellite images for clues to the onset of the red tide. Red tide is the name given to large blooms of toxin-producing algae that can cause fish kills, human respiratory irritation and a reddish discoloration of the water.

Thermal circulation patterns detected by satellite sensors can provide the information necessary to study and/or predict a red tide event. **Satellite observations are especially important** because these patterns cannot be detected by conventional ship and buoy observations. Oceanographers believe that the algae may have been carried to the eastern seaboard by the Gulf Stream, from tropical waters where the red tide primarily exists.

MARYLAND FIRM DEVELOPS GIS DATABASES - NUS Corporation of Gaithersburg, Maryland has developed over 20 GIS databases for trend analysis, environmental assessment and population risk assessment using ESRI ARC/INFO and ERDAS Image Processing systems. NUS has produced landcover classification maps for over 50,000 square miles throughout the U.S. using Landsat data. Other projects include: creation of a 24-county landcover and habitat inventory for reservoir planning in Oklahoma for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; environmental assessment, facility siting, and utility corridor analyses for the U.S. Department of Energy; GIS selection and applications training for the Maryland Department of State Planning; and development of a national environmental trends database for the Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality. (source: Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, April 1988)

SENATE AIR AND SPACE CAUCUS MEETS - Last week the first working meeting of the Senate Air and Space Caucus met, with European and Japanese space officials briefing nearly a dozen Senate staffers. A classified CIA briefing is scheduled for Senate members May 10 on the Soviet space program. Presently, 34 senators are members of the caucus. (source: Satellite News)

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATORS WORK TO ESTABLISH AIR & SPACE CENTER - The California State Legislature, in conjunction with NASA and other agencies, is working to establish the California Space Academy and California Air and Space Center to expand public awareness of the aerospace industry. The Center, to be located at or near NASA's Ames Research Center, would be designed for children from grade 5 to college freshmen.

Senate Bill 1810 was introduced by California State Senator Art Torres, who said, "California is the undisputed leader in the nation's \$103.5 billion aerospace industry...yet no program presently exists to familiarize our youth with the value and complexities of aeronautics and space exploration and research."

NGDC OFFERS DATA OF EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD - NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center, Boulder, Colorado, is offering tape, photo and new floppy disk products of the Earth's magnetic field. The data is especially important to surveyors, and includes U.S. and worldwide declination values, spherical harmonic models, and other change models dating back to 1900. For more information, contact: NGDC, NOAA Code E/GC4, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80303 USA.

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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