

Commercialization file



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA,
AND INFORMATION SERVICES
MUNDT FEDERAL BUILDING
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57198

IC 9-150

September 27, 1985

E/SP4:HW

MEMORANDUM

TO: Allen H. Watkins
Chief, EROS Data Center

FROM: Howard W. Warriner
Production Program Manager

SUBJECT: Department of Commerce Press Release

HW Warriner

Attached is the Department of Commerce news release entitled, "Commerce Transfers Landsat to Private Sector".

Attachment

Action	_____
Info	_____
Watkins	✓
Lendis	✓
Metz	✓
Byrnes	✓
Rohde	✓
Admin.	✓
DP&DB	✓
CSB	✓
YD&AB	✓
Poltinger	_____
Alaska	_____
Tec in color	_____
NOAA	_____

(dist. 10-3-85)



NEWS RELEASE

COMMERCE TRANSFERS LANDSAT TO PRIVATE SECTOR

Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige announced today that the Commerce Department has signed a contract with Earth Observation Satellite Co. (EOSAT), Arlington, VA., to transfer to the private sector the earth-sensing satellite system known as Landsat. EOSAT is a joint venture of the RCA Corp. and Hughes Aircraft Co.

The contract provides that Federal funding will be phased out over the next five years. During the phase-out period, the company will receive a maximum of \$250 million to build and operate two new satellites, and to provide a new ground service and data-processing system for the new spacecraft. EOSAT also will operate two existing satellites.

RCA will supply the next generation spacecraft through its Astro-Electronics Division in Princeton, N.J. Instrumentation will be supplied by the Santa Barbara Research Center, a Hughes subsidiary in Goleta, California. EOSAT will provide succeeding satellites and ground facilities without further government subsidy.

"Now is the time to transfer this program to the private sector", Baldrige said.

"The American people have invested more than \$1 billion in this system and we hope to see this investment capitalized into private sector jobs and opportunities here and overseas."

The new satellites will provide sharper images and enhance the value of Landsat for agriculture world-wide. The new ground system also will be more efficient than the present system.

The contract requires that EOSAT market Landsat data worldwide on a non-discriminatory basis.

Landsat data-derived images have been used since 1972 to evaluate earth resources. The present system uses two spacecraft -- Landsats 4 and 5 -- circling the earth at an altitude of 438 miles.

Landsat has become an important information source for many nations. Geologists, forecasters, industrial architects, farmers, wildlife managers, and map workers are among the many users of Landsat services.

Pioneered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Landsat program has been conducted since 1983 by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

9/27/85