



Landsat World Update

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LANDSAT PROGRAM STATUS - Landsats 4 and 5 continue to operate nominally.

EOSAT SIGNS LANDSAT 6 CONTRACT MARCH 31 - Shortly after the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations approved the Department of Commerce plan for funding Landsat 6, EOSAT's President, C.P. Williams, signed the contract that immediately restarted the Landsat program commercialization activities. The Senate action follows House Appropriations Subcommittee's approval of the DoC plan on March 28. The new contract provides for the Landsat 6 launch on a Titan II launch vehicle by June 1991 from the Western Test Range. The principal mission payload will be the Enhanced Thematic Mapper, with a co-registered 15-meter panchromatic band. A wide field sensor—SeaWiFS—optimized for ocean color and sea surface temperature will also be included as part of the mission payload. Also a study is underway to determine the market feasibility for a 5-meter, 3-band (blue, green, red) sensor for Landsat 6.

Program costs to the government for the basic Landsat 6 mission will be \$256.5 Million. This includes \$36.5 Million for launch and \$220 Million for space and ground segment construction. EOSAT has agreed to invest \$10.8 Million as part of the new contract agreement. The net cost of Landsat 6 commercialization to the government would, therefore, be \$245.7 Million.

THIRD WORLD REMOTE SENSING ORGANIZATION FORMED - The Third World Association for Remote Sensing (TWARS) has been organized by professors and researchers in Third World nations to harness remote sensing technology for applications in developing countries. M. El-Ghawabi of Egypt will serve as the first head of TWARS; I. B. Odeveni of Nigeria as Executive Secretary. The association was formed following a 1987 remote sensing symposium by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Trieste, Italy. (Source: Washington Remote Sensing Letter 3/1/88)

INDIAN REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE OPERATIONAL - In mid-March the Indian Space Research Organization orbited a remote sensing satellite from a USSR Proton launch vehicle. IRS-1 orbits the earth in a polar, sun-synchronous orbit at 904 kilometers. The spacecraft's two sensor systems provide multispectral coverage in the visible and near infrared wavelengths at 73 and 36.5 meter resolution. The data will be made available as film and computer compatible tapes for use in agriculture, hydrology, geology, and forestry. For more information contact, the Chairman, ISRO Headquarters, Cauvery Bhavan, Kempegowada Road, Bangalore - 560-009, INDIA

LANDSAT MONITORS NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL - Ducks Unlimited (DU) Canada, in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other state and provincial wildlife agencies, is working to meet waterfowl population goals as part of the recently signed North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The Plan calls for agency cooperation and management strategies for waterfowl habitat conservation to the year 2000.

Wetlands inventories of the northern prairie, extending from South Dakota north to the boreal forests of Saskatchewan and Alberta will be conducted by DU under the Plan using Landsat TM data, with an initial data base to be completed by 1990. DU cites a number of benefits to using TM data for wetland inventories: the large area view, economical data costs (1 cent per

acre), repeat coverage for seasonal changes, mid-infrared TM bands for improvement over other spectral range sensors, and flexibility in creating wetland data bases and geographic information systems.

NEW REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED - Brazil and China recently announced that they have formed a partnership to launch a new remote sensing mission. Scheduled for operation in 1992 the new spacecraft will be launched by a Long March rocket and operate a Brazilian made remote sensing instrument. All indications are that the new mission will be compatible with today's Landsat TM capabilities. By current count this announcement means there will be a minimum of five new remote sensing missions in operation by the end of 1992.

WILD TURKEY HABITAT STUDY USES TM - University of New Mexico's Technology Application Center (TAC) has completed a project with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to help identify potential wild turkey habitats in southern New Mexico. Due to heavy hunting pressure and habitat loss as a result of development in many regions of the southwest, the once abundant birds have experienced a large decline in population, and therefore, are now being carefully monitored by the State agency. **Landsat Thematic Mapper vegetation classifications** have been combined with field and map data in a Geographic Information System to **identify optimum variables for turkey habitat**.

Wildlife biologists use the GIS to test how various habitat management assumptions affect bird populations. Based on these tests, Game Department biologists are able to develop and apply management strategies that protect, enhance and maintain turkey and other game resources. (Source: TAC News)

BROWN CALLS FOR LONG-TERM SPACE GOALS - Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. (D-CA) has introduced a House bill calling for the advancement of science exploration and developments that would eventually lead to human settlements in space. "I have chosen to introduce this legislation during this dark hour in the history of NASA in the hope that it will, in some way, add reasoning to why we need a vital space program today," Brown said at a recent Congressional Space Caucus meeting.

The bill, which would amend the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, would give NASA \$3 million for three years beginning in FY 1989 to develop reports to the President analyzing technology, economics and benefits of space settlements. **Long-term planning and enhancements to science programs on Earth are one of the goals of the legislation**, which Brown states are not appropriately addressed by NASA. (source: Satellite News 3/21/88).

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.

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.
