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# Landsat World Update

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**LANDSAT PROGRAM UPDATE** is a bi-weekly report to the earth remote sensing community. The Update will provide 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 4/5 OPERATIONS - GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER** - Landsat 4, in its **fifth year of operations**, resumed collection of Thematic Mapper (TM) data in October, 1987. Landsat 4 is collecting approximately 50-60 TM scenes per day.

Landsat 5 continues to operate nominally, providing both TM and MSS imagery to **thirteen Landsat international receiving stations** through X- and S-band downlinks. Landsat 5 also downlinks 30-40 scenes per day.

**Landsat 6** - The U.S. Congress has authorized FY 87 supplemental funds to the U.S. Department of Commerce for restart of the Landsat 6 program. EOSAT continues to negotiate with the Department of Commerce and is confident that a program restart will occur in mid-February.

**EOSAT ORGANIZES INDEPENDENT STUDY FOR LANDSAT 7 MISSION** - To continue its support of Landsat commercialization, EOSAT, in October 1987, initiated an independent study on the configuration for the Landsat 7. The study is slated for release in April, 1988, and is supported by a working group headed by Dr. Matthew Willard, and includes system experts from EOSAT and other private firms, as well as independent consultants and academia.

The system currently planned for the Landsat 7 mission will be evaluated to determine which technologies meet the U.S. satellite remote sensing user's requirements, and whether those technologies will keep the U.S. program commercially competitive in the international satellite remote sensing market of the 1990's.

The study will **"identify and validate domestic government, commercial and international user requirements for both land and ocean missions,"** according to the working group charter. While separating the user needs of various government, private and research interests, the study will seek common requirements on which to base the sensor, spacecraft and data handling recommendations.

The primary user requirements to be covered in the study include spatial capability, spectral range, coverage (including repeat coverage) requirements, data turnaround time, data accuracy, data formats and media. Related sensors, spacecraft, ground systems and launch vehicles will also be assessed based on their ability to satisfy user requirements.

Already in progress is a survey of media and remote sensing representatives for the potential development of the high-resolution STAR (Satellite Tracking and Reporting) sensor. The 5-meter resolution instrument would provide daily or two-day coverage of the world in visible (RGB) color. Surveys of the television and print media have produced encouraging results. As a result, EOSAT plans to pursue market and technological research and development for STAR in conjunction with its Landsat 7 efforts.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFERS RFP FOR LANDSAT MAPPING** - The USDA Forest Service has submitted a Request for Proposals for Landsat Vegetative Mapping of the Colville,

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Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests in the state of Washington. The Forest Service intends to establish data acquisition and data base development for the National Forests by integrating Landsat data into Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This, in conjunction with field investigations and other data sources, will provide a detailed applications base for the Forest Service covering nearly 5 million acres.

**WEYERHAEUSER CO. STEPS UP LANDSAT USE** - Weyerhaeuser, one of the nation's largest integrated forest products companies, has recently expanded its remote sensing capabilities. The expansion includes significant investments for hardware and software systems to process Landsat digital data. Weyerhaeuser is developing a system to monitor over 6 million acres of timberland for growth, disease, insect infestation and other changes. According to a recent article in the *Tacoma News-Tribune* Weyerhaeuser plans to combine Landsat data with geographic information system technology. According to Weyerhaeuser remote sensing technology provides significant cost benefits in the management of their timberland resources.

**LANDSAT DATA NOW AVAILABLE ON FLOPPY DISKS** - EOSAT has announced the availability of Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) data on floppy disks. This new product will serve a growing number of Landsat satellite data users with PC based image processing systems as well as traditional customers interested in smaller areas. The floppy disks contain a subscene of 512 by 512 picture elements (pixels), or approximately 81 square miles (213 square km). The subscene may be generated from any location within the standard Landsat TM archive scene, which covers over 12,000 square miles (31,450 square km). For more information, contact EOSAT Customer Services at (800) 344-9933 or (301) 552-0537.

**LANDSAT USED TO MAP ANTARCTIC ICEBERG** - Sea ice experts and cartographers are benefitting from Landsat monitoring of a large iceberg which broke off from Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica. The iceberg, measuring over 96 by 23 miles (153 by 36 km), is part of the changing coastline of Antarctica monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey. This movement eliminated the Bay of Whales and a portion of the coastline. Because of the interest in data, EOSAT is providing a CCT of the entire iceberg in the new TM full scene format for purchase at the standard \$3,300 price. Data Orders can be placed through the Lanham, MD, Customer Services Office by calling (301) 552-0537 or (800)344-9933 ext 537 between 8:00AM and 5:00PM Eastern Standard Time. Reference should be made to the Ross Iceberg TM Digital Data CCT.

**CONSERVATION GROUP USES LANDSAT DATA AS FUND RAISER** - The Chesapeake Bay Foundation recognized the potential of Landsat data, commissioned a poster of the Chesapeake Bay area that the Foundation is using as a fund raiser. Four Spring Landsat TM scenes were mosaicked on the Kodak Remote Sensing DIAL system in Landover, MD. The natural color, digital mosaic is approximately 25 inches by 38 inches, and includes Washington, D.C. and portions of Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. According to Foundation officials, sales are brisk.

The attractive poster, suitable for framing, is available by mail for \$18.95 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling ( Maryland residents add \$.95 per poster for sales tax). Send orders and payment to: Parker Rockefeller, CBF, 162 Prince George Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

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