



LANDSAT 7 MONTHLY UPDATE

The Landsat 7 Mission, developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey under authority established by Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-3.

Program News

- Presidential Decision Directive** On October 16, 2000, President Clinton signed the revised Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) that transfers authority from NOAA to USGS to manage and operate the Landsat 7 system. The Directive gives USGS complete responsibility for Landsat 7 operations, including flight operations and contract oversight for Landsat 4 and 5. As a result of the signing of the PDD, the Department State has granted to the USGS the authority to enter into agreements with International Cooperators for the reception and distribution of Landsat 7 data.
- New Ground Station Activity** The Indonesian Ground Station located at Parepare has received Landsat 7 downlinks during October for testing purposes. The Indonesian Ground station plans to be operational as of November 1, 2000. In addition, test downlinks will be sent to the ground station at Bangkok, Thailand during the week of November 6, 2000.
- Product Pricing** The Landsat 7 Program has proposed to USGS management to maintain the product prices that have been in effect since the start of Landsat 7 operations, namely Level 0R products at \$475 per scene and Level 1R and 1G products at \$600 per scene. We anticipate approval to continue with our bulk-order prices (20% less than standard prices) for product orders of 25 or more scenes per order.

Technical News

- NORAD TLE** The Mission Operations Center (MOC) has installed a software upgrade that allows them to generate NORAD Two Line Element (TLE) ephemeris data. The MOC has been posting their TLE product on the Web (ls7pm3.gsfc.nasa.gov/orbels.html). The MOC-generated TLE data are more accurate than the previous TLE data generated by the US Space Command. The MOC performs orbit determinations daily and uses both ground and space based two-way Doppler measurements. The MOC is requesting feedback from International Cooperators regarding the accuracy of this new data set (rich.lonigro@gsfc.nasa.gov)
- Metadata Interoperability Proposal** To date, the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) and the Australia Centre for Remote Sensing (ACRES) have accepted the EROS Data Center (EDC) offer to receive EDC-purchased software for metadata interoperability. Other International Cooperators interested in the EDC Metadata Interoperability proposal should contact John Faundeen (Faundeen@usgs.gov)

Meetings

- The 29th Landsat Ground Station Operations Working Group (LGSOWG)** The meeting in Beijing, China, September 18-22, 2000, included representatives from 10 countries representing 12 International Ground Stations: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Italy, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, South Africa and the U.S. In addition, representatives from Eurimage, MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates, and SPOT Image (Beijing) were in attendance. Space Imaging representatives were unable to attend. The focus of the meeting was on the adoption of a new acquisition prioritization scheme and the Data Exchange Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding between USGS and the International Cooperators. The LGSOWG-29 meeting resulted in a consensus to implement the 3-tiered prioritization scheme for requesting Landsat 7 data. In addition, the Data Exchange Annex was approved in principle with recommended changes. One recommendation from this meeting resulted in establishing this monthly report to improve communications with the International Ground

Station community regarding Landsat 7 and related news. The meeting in Beijing provided a wonderful opportunity to visit the facilities and personnel of the China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station located in Miyun County northeast of Beijing and the Headquarters in Beijing that is the site for most of the meetings.

The 9th Landsat 7 Technical Working Group Meeting (LTWG-9)

This meeting is scheduled for February 19-22, 2001 at the Melia Tamarindos Hotel near Maspalomas, Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain). The announcement, logistical information, and an agenda will be sent to LGSOWG and LTWG members in early November.

Landsat 7 Science Team

The Landsat 7 Science Team meeting will be held in Warrenton, Virginia on November 6-9.

CEOS Plenary

The 14th CEOS Plenary Meeting will be held November 8-10, 2000 in Rio de Janeiro. Planning to attend are: R. J. Thompson, Landsat 7 Program Manager; Raymond Byrnes, USGS Satellite Programs liaison; and Dr. Charles J. Groat, Director of the USGS. The USGS has submitted a proposal for acceptance as a CEOS Plenary member.

Related News

EO-1 Launch

The launch of EO-1, originally scheduled for November 16, 2000, has slipped to no earlier than November 18 and possibly as late as November 20. The data collected will be processed and distributed to the EO-1 science team from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. In the future EO-1 data will be archived and distributed to the public from the EROS Data Center.

Aqua Launch

A new launch date for Aqua has not been officially established and announced; however, it is unlikely to be launched prior to July 12, 2001.

Quickbird 1 Launch

EarthWatch, Inc. of Longmont, Colorado, will launch its QuickBird 1 high-resolution imaging satellite November 19, 2000, from Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northern Russia.

Terra Data Distribution

Selected higher-level MODIS land data products are available for distribution from the Land Processes Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) at the EROS Data Center. A firm release date for the distribution of ASTER data and higher-level products from the EDC DAAC has not yet been set.



The Landsat 7 Monthly Update is prepared and distributed monthly to present information to partners and users regarding Landsat 7 activities and other satellite-related topics of interest. Comments, corrections, and queries of any kind may be directed to David Carneggie at the following email address: carneggie@usgs.gov.