USGS
Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

NASA

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

New LGSOWG Members

The Landsat Ground Station Operations Working Group has recently lost two long-time Landsat participants as a result of their being elevated or reassigned within their respective organizations. Professor Xizhe PAN, formerly the Station Manager at the China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station, and Paul Trezise, Station Manager at the Australia Centre for Remote Sensing have recently announced that they are moving to new positions, and have been replaced by Mr. Jiesheng WANG and Ian Shepherd respectively. We welcome the two new members to LGSOWG and look forward to meeting them. We also want to express our profound gratitude to Professor PAN and Paul Trezise for their contributions and support of the Landsat Program. We wish them well in their new positions**.**

Landsat 7 Data Sales Summary

In calendar year 2000, the USGS distributed 14,609 Landsat 7 scenes. The breakdown by product type is as follows: 1020 Level-0R scenes; 146 Level-1R scenes; and 13,443 Level-1G scenes. The breakdown for distribution formats for Level-1G products are: Geo-tiff, 33.7%; FastL7, 54.2%; and HDF, 12.1%. Approximately 83% of the Landsat 7 products shipped were on CD-ROM media, while 13% were distributed by FTP, and the remaining 4% were shipped on 8 mm cassette tape. The USGS intends to gather these data annually from the International Ground Stations in order to document Landsat 7 worldwide data sales. The implementation of this data documentation effort will be discussed at the upcoming LTWG-9 meeting in Maspalomas.

IGS Downlink Statistics

During calendar year 2000 the International Ground Station network, comprised of as many as 14 operational ground stations, received 111,383 Landsat 7 scenes. The network as a whole received approximately 90% of the scenes they requested. Since the start of Landsat 7 operations a total of 162,354 scenes have been downlinked to international ground stations.

Test Downlinks in January

Test downlinks were provided to the Thailand ground station in Bangkok, and to the South Africa ground station in Hartebeeshoek. Both of these stations should join the IGS network within the next few months.

Landsat 7 Annual Report

The Landsat 7 Program Report for FY2000 is available in hardcopy and on the USGS Landsat 7 Website (under L7 Documents at: Landsat7.usgs.gov). This Report highlights the accomplishments for the Landsat 7 Mission during the first fifteen months of production operations, starting on July 1, 1999 and extending to September 30, 2000. Hardcopies will be mailed to representatives from the International Ground Stations and to Business Partners.

Technical News

IGS Data Validation

In January 2001, the China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station and the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing provided the USGS with Level-0Rp data that were successfully processed and validated to be of equivalent quality to the USGS EROS Data Center's Level-0R data product. There are now four IGS that can exchange data (Raw CC or Level-0Rp) with USGS (Argentina, Australia, China and Canada). These four ground stations will now be scheduled for biannual data exchange for data quality validation. Congratulations to you all!

New Tracking Station

As of January 22, 2001, a new satellite ground station, operated by the Datalynx subsidiary of Honeywell, at Poker Flat, Alaska, was certified to provide command uplink, telemetry downlink, Doppler tracking, and X-band receiving for Landsat 7. The new station, co-located with the current Alaska Ground Station, will support data downlink conflicts with other satellites, such as the EO-1 mission.

Meetings

LDCM Workshop Summary

A variety of opinions and recommendations resulted from the Landsat Data Continuity Mission Workshop held January 9-10. They include:

1. Participants emphasized the "public good" aspects of the Landsat Program
2. Commercial providers suggest there is insufficient market to justify private investment.
3. An open, nonrestrictive data policy, similar to Landsat 7, is essential for the LDCM.
4. Participants expressed an urgency to move forward with the mission to avoid data gaps.
5. Emphasis was placed on continuing the current cooperation with international ground stations.
6. Retain the mission objective of a seasonal global archive
7. Decrease revisit time to less than 16 days and add a thermal infrared band
8. Retain the Landsat 7 emphasis on geometric and radiometric calibration

Within the next few months the LDCM concept will be finalized and at least one workshop will be conducted on a draft Request for Proposals.

LTWG-9 Meeting

Final plans are being made for the LTWG-9 meeting in Maspalomas. Representation from all the operational ground stations is expected, in addition to representation from as many as three new ground stations.

Related News

EO-1 Workshop Summary

The EO-1 mission continues to perform very well and there is a possibility that the life of the mission may be extended beyond the 330 day baseline that is planned. Viewgraphs from the meeting are available on the EO-1 website (eo1.gsfc.gov).