

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)  
Response to Request for Correction of Information under  
NASA's Information Quality Guidelines  
Request #IQ2002-0001**

**Summary of Request**

This memorandum pertains to a request for correction of information under NASA's Information Quality Guidelines dated October 31, 2002. The request was sent according to the mechanisms outlined in NASA's Guidelines for Ensuring the Quality of Information, and included the information required by Section D of the Guidelines (the Administrative Mechanisms section.)

The request questions the validity of an image downloaded from the Arizona State University (ASU) Thermal Emission Imaging System (THEMIS) web site. The request indicates that a visit to the THEMIS web site on August 26, 2002 produced a different image than was available from that site on July 25, 2002.

NASA considered the request for correction and conducted a review of the information in question under the NASA Guidelines for Ensuring the Quality of Information. For the reasons set forth below, NASA has determined that correction of the information is not required. NASA's analysis follows:

**Background**

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory manages the 2001 Mars Odyssey mission for NASA's Office of Space Science. The Odyssey orbiter carries three science instruments, including THEMIS. THEMIS was developed by ASU with Santa Barbara Remote Sensing (SBRS), and is managed by ASU under contract to NASA. The THEMIS Principal Investigator (PI) resides at ASU.

THEMIS is designed to map the mineralogy and morphology of the martian surface using multispectral imaging in the visible and thermal infrared. Six months after THEMIS data are taken, formatted data are delivered to the Planetary Data System (PDS) for archiving at three month intervals. The PDS requires that scientific archives be validated for both scientific integrity and compliance with PDS standards. Validation is conducted by a combination of mission and PDS personnel, and involves a formal PDS peer review. Data that have been archived are then available to the research and educational communities and members of the public as calibrated data from which analysis can be made. The time frame for the release of calibrated THEMIS data to the public is approximately six to nine months after the data are captured.

Prior to the release of the calibrated data to the public, THEMIS makes available some "interesting" images via its web site as an educational and public outreach activity (i.e.,

“image-of-the day”). These images generally have not been calibrated and are not required to be of sufficient quality for scientific analysis.

The image that is the subject of this information correction request was provided on the THEMIS web site as a public service in the manner described above. While the source data for the posted image were calibrated and geometrically projected in a preliminary fashion, this was not done under the formal validation procedure for PDS release, and the image is not intended for quantitative scientific analysis.

### **Review and Analysis**

NASA inquired, and THEMIS confirmed, that the image in question was presented on the web site on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002, and was not altered, removed, replaced, or otherwise touched between July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

The calibrated data related to this image are scheduled for archiving to the PDS in January 2003. The data that will be available to the public after January 2003 are the official source for analysis, and will have been subject to the validation processes described above.

### **NASA’s Decision**

NASA’s review has led to the decision that the image is as posted, so no correction is required. NASA could find no alteration of the original image as posted on the THEMIS web site. Validated archival data suitable for scientific analysis will be released to the public on schedule.

### **Opportunity for Appeal**

If the requestor does not agree with NASA’s decision regarding this request, an appeal may be initiated within 60 calendar days of the decision.