

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
AND  
THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
FOR  
EXPERIMENTAL LAND REMOTELY SENSED DATA PROCESSING,  
DISTRIBUTION, ARCHIVING, AND RELATED SCIENCE SUPPORT

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into this 16th day of March, 1988, by and between the U.S. Geological Survey, hereinafter referred to as the USGS, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, hereinafter referred to as NASA.

Whereas, NASA is responsible for the conduct of an ongoing research and development program leading to advanced capabilities for observation of the Earth from space; and

Whereas, NASA is planning the development and operation of advanced experimental earth observation systems, such as the Earth Observing System (EOS) to be flown in conjunction with the Earth Orbiting Space Station; and

Whereas, NASA is seeking the active long-term maintenance and wide distribution of land remotely sensed research and development data from current and future experimental Earth observation systems to the research and development community in the most efficient and cost-effective manner; and

Whereas, the USGS is one of the principal land earth sciences organizations of the Federal Government; and

Whereas, the USGS operates the EROS Data Center as the principal U.S. processing, distribution, and archive location for U.S. satellite land remotely sensed data; and

Whereas, the USGS' EROS Data Center combines multidisciplinary earth science research, digital data processing and analysis system development and operation, and data distribution and archiving capabilities; and

Whereas, the parties hereto are mutually interested in and desire to cooperate in the development and operation of experimental land remotely sensed data processing, distribution, and archiving capabilities, along with appropriate related science support; and

Whereas, the USGS is authorized to cooperate with NASA in accomplishing this work pursuant to the Organic Act of the U.S. Geological Survey of March 3, 1879 (43 U.S.C. 31) and NASA is authorized to cooperate with the USGS in the accomplishment of this work pursuant to Section 203(c)(5) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C.2473(c)(5)).

Now therefore,

NASA agrees to:

1. Place the active short- and long-term archives for experimental land remotely sensed data obtained by NASA at the EROS Data Center. This will include a large amount of the processing, distribution, and archiving of data from the EOS program and other current and future experimental systems as agreed to.
2. Include as appropriate, USGS representatives in the planning, development, and implementation activities for experimental earth observation systems including the EOS Data and Information System at the earliest practical time.
3. Provide funding for the development, implementation, and operation of the active short-term archives and appropriate science support activities for the experimental land remotely sensed data from the EOS program and other current and future experimental systems as agreed to.
4. Transfer responsibility for active long-term archiving and appropriate science support activities for these data archives to the USGS at agreed upon future dates in accordance with approved coordinated program definition and implementation plans.

USGS agrees to:

1. Have the EROS Data Center serve as the active short- and long-term archive for experimental land remotely sensed data obtained by NASA, including a large amount of the processing, distribution, and archiving of data from the EOS program and other current and future experimental systems as agreed to and in accordance with existing policies and applicable laws.
2. Participate with NASA in the planning, development, and implementation activities for experimental earth observation systems including the EOS Data and Information System.
3. Assume responsibility at a future agreed upon time for active long-term archiving and appropriate science support activities for those NASA experimental land remotely sensed data in the active short-term archives in accordance with approved coordinated program definition and implementation plans.


NASA and USGS agree jointly to:

1. Define the scope and content of the active short- and long-term land remotely sensed data archives and associated science support activities covered by this agreement.
2. Prepare within 6 months following signature of this agreement an initial Program Definition and Implementation plan. The plan will identify and describe the scope of the major elements covered by this agreement, including estimated funding requirements by each agency, and implementation schedules.

3. Define a budget strategy for the cooperative program which identifies the important complementary roles in earth system science of NASA's EOS and other experimental earth observation systems, and the active long-term land remotely sensed data archive supported by the USGS.
4. Participate in joint presentations to NASA, DOI, OMB, and the Congress, as necessary, to explain the essential roles of each organization and funding needs for the elements of the cooperative program.
5. Designate policy and technical points of contacts in each agency for implementation of this agreement.
6. Establish and execute a plan that provides for NASA funding for development and implementation of the active short-term land remotely sensed data archives and appropriate science support activities at the EROS Data Center and for the transfer of responsibility for the active long-term archives and appropriate science support activities for these data to USGS at agreed upon future dates.

Performance of either party under this agreement is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

This agreement shall remain in effect until cancelled. The agreement may be modified by mutual agreement of the parties and may be terminated by either party upon 90 days written notice.



Associate Administrator for  
Space Science and Applications,  
National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration

Date: 3/16/88



Director,  
U.S. Geological Survey

Date: 3/16/88