

**NOAA ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING
(ACCRES)
OPEN SESSION MEETING SUMMARY
March 15, 2007**

Open Session

The open session of the tenth meeting of NOAA's Advisory Committee for Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) was convened on March 15, 2007 at 2:15 pm in the Auditorium of the National Association for Homebuilders, Washington, D.C. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public.

Committee members present:

Mr. Kevin O'Connell, Chair, Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis
Ms. Karen Schuckman, Vice-Chair, American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Mr. Chris Kessler, Department of State
Mr. Cary Ludtke, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation (representing Mr. David Taylor)
Ms. Sandra Webster, Office of the Director for National Intelligence (representing Mr. Gil Klinger)
Dr. Ray Williamson, George Washington University
Mr. Scott Smith, DigitalGlobe (representing Ms. Jill Smith)
Mr. Douglas McGovern, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Mr. Bill Gail, Microsoft (representing Dr. John Curlander)
Dr. James Lewis, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Mr. Bill Wilt, GeoEye (representing Mr. Matt O'Connell)
Dr. Rick Heidner, Aerospace Corporation (representing Dr. Joe Straus)

Presiding Staff of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

Ms. Mary Kicza, Satellite and Information Service
Ms. Kay Weston, International and Interagency Affairs
Mr. Glenn Tallia, Office of General Counsel
Mr. David Hasenauer, International and Interagency Affairs
Ms. Tahara Moreno, International and Interagency Affairs

Representative from other Agencies:

Mr. Ray Byrnes, United States Geological Survey
Mr. Peter Paquette, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Opening Statements

Mr. Kevin O'Connell, Committee Chair, called the tenth ACCRES meeting to order, welcoming attendees and introducing members and guests. He then provided a brief summary of topics addressed during the morning's closed session.

Update on the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM)

Mr. Byrnes said that in 2000, NASA and USGS were directed to co-manage the Landsat program. In the division of responsibilities, NASA procures the LDCM space segment, including sensor, spacecraft, flight software and launch services. USGS procures and manages the ground system, including the flight operations facility, data capture sites, systems for data archive and processing, data access and distribution systems. It also co-chairs and funds the Landsat Science Team. Reviewing current developments, Mr. Byrnes noted NASA started the selection process for the

sensor in January 2007 and is moving ahead with other procurement. USGS is also in the process of planning its procurement segments. Distribution of LDCM data will follow the current Landsat data policy. An LDCM pilot project using preprocessed Landsat data will begin in the spring.

There could be a gap in data before LDCM is operational. The LDCM launch date is targeted for 2011, an ambitious deadline. The projected end of Landsats 5 and 7 is late 2010, although they could last longer, possibly through 2012 since fuel consumption has been less than projected. A USGS/NASA-led Data Gap Study Team is looking at possible alternative sources of data if Landsat is not available for a period.

National GeoSpatial-Intelligence Agency Commercial Remote Sensing

Mr. Paquette opened his presentation by emphasizing the importance of commercial remote sensing. The lessons from 9/11, Katrina, the Indonesian tsunami and other crises underline the need to share data. In a discussion of NGA contracts for commercial data, Mr. Paquette noted "ClearView" (one meter resolution) and "NextView" (half meter resolution). Expected benefits over the next two years include better resolution (0.5 meter PAN), an increase in daily collection, more data delivered, faster delivery timelines, and lower prices. In terms of data licensing and copyright, Mr. Paquette said commercial imagery should be thought of in the same way as software purchased for home computers. The first place to search for and retrieve data is the NGA website. The next would be vendor archives. If the required data is still not found, a request can be filed with NGA.

In response to a question, Mr. McGovern said there has been a 100% increase in requests over the past year, from about 3,000 to 6,000. In addition, there are more and different users making the requests. In response to another question, Mr. McGovern said there are not many requests from state and local governments.

NOAA Update

Ms. Weston, NOAA's Commercial Remote Sensing Licensing Program Manager, opened her briefing with statistics on the number of days it took to complete license actions during the first and second quarters of FY07. In other activities since the last meeting of ACCRES in September 2006, a Commercial Remote Sensing Workshop attended by about 80 people was held January 17, 2007; NOAA is preparing for annual visits with licensees; and a survey conducted for NOAA's Satellite and Information Service by Global Marketing Insights, Inc. (GMI) on the Asian remote sensing market was published in February 2007. In addition, the recommendation by ACCRES to eliminate the 24-hour restriction on distribution of certain types of remote sensing data is under consideration within the U.S. Government and a final decision is expected by next month.

The GMI study on Asian remote sensing, following an earlier survey of Europe, Canada and the U.S., produced a number of interesting results. The study found a young, energetic workforce in all remote sensing sectors in Asia. Respondents were on average 15 years younger than Western respondents. Asia is well-positioned to provide technical and processing support to other regions of the world. Asian capabilities are increasing as more satellites are launched and more data becomes available. Satellite imagery development and distribution is a key focus. The Asian remote sensing community has a pronounced emphasis remote-controlled aircraft and artificial intelligence. Mr. O'Connell commented that the study's conclusions reinforce points made during the morning session on the growing international interest in remote sensing and the trend towards younger people in other parts of the world taking an interest in the field.

Mr. Paquette's, Mr. Byrnes' and Ms. Weston's briefing as well as the GMI study can be found on the NOAA website (www.licensing.noaa.gov).

Public Comments

Mr. O'Connell asked for public comments or questions. There being none, the Open Session adjourned at 3:15 pm.