

**NOAA ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING
(ACCRES)
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
DECEMBER 11, 2003**

CLOSED SESSION

The NOAA Advisory Committee for Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) convened its fourth meeting in a closed session at 8:30 a.m. on December 11, 2003, at NOAA, 1335 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland. The session was closed to the public pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in Sunshine Act, P.L. 94-409 and in accordance with Section 552b(c)(1) of Title 5, United States Code. The closed session addressed classified issues and related national and foreign policy considerations for NOAA's licensing program.

Committee members present:

Mr. Joseph Dodd, on behalf of Mr. Robert Dalal, Space Imaging, Incorporated
Mr. Martin Faga, MITRE
Dr. Joanne Gabrynowicz, National Remote Sensing and Space Law Center, University of Mississippi
Dr. Charles Groat, US Geological Survey
Mr. Michael Hewins, AstroVision International, Inc.
Dr. Malina Hills, on behalf of Dr. Wanda Austin, The Aerospace Corporation
Dr. Donald Lauer, American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Ms. Roberta Lenczowski, on behalf of Lt. General James Clapper, USA Ret, National Geospatial-intelligence Agency
Mr. Kevin O'Connell, RAND Corporation
Mr. Robert Winokur, Earth Satellite Corporation

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

Mr. Gregory Withee, Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services (NESDIS)
Dr. Colleen Hartman, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services (NESDIS)
Mr. Glenn Tallia, Senior Counselor for Atmospheric and Space Services and Research Office of General Counsel
Mr. Timothy Stryker, Chief, Satellite Activities Branch, NESDIS International and Interagency Affairs Office, and ACCRES Designated Federal Officer

OPEN SESSION

The NOAA Advisory Committee for Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) was convened at 1:10 p.m. at NOAA, 1335 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public.

The Chairman, Robert Winokur, thanked Committee members and members of the public for attending the fourth meeting of ACCRES. He stated that the current focus of the Committee is the new U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Policy released to the public May 13, 2003.

Committee members present:

Mr. Joseph Dodd, on behalf of Mr. Robert Dalal, Space Imaging, Incorporated
Mr. Martin Faga, MITRE
Dr. Joanne Gabrynowicz, National Remote Sensing and Space Law Center, University of Mississippi
Dr. Charles Groat, US Geological Survey
Mr. Michael Hewins, AstroVision International, Inc.
Dr. Malina Hills, on behalf of Dr. Wanda Austin, The Aerospace Corporation
Dr. Donald Lauer, American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
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Call to Order

The Chairman called the fourth meeting of the committee to order at 1:10 p.m. At the morning's closed session, Mr. Winokur announced that he had accepted a job with the Navy to be the Technical Director of the Oceanographer of the Navy. Because of this, he would no longer be able to serve on the Committee. Following the announcement, Mr. Winokur and Mr. O'Connell agreed to co-chair the meeting.

Responses to NOAA's Request for Information on its Licensing Program

Timothy Stryker of NOAA provided a briefing on the Request for Information that it conducted this fall for public inputs on its regulations and ways that it could improve its licensing process. NOAA received four sets of comments, two from licensees and two from committee members. The comments included USG restraints in the face of growing international competition; review and reevaluation of foreign commercial availability; non-discriminatory access policy; sensed state principles; complexity of licensing procedures; and the interagency review process. These comments will be published on the ACCRES committee website at www.licensing.noaa.gov.

Briefing on NOAA Observation Requirements Process

Pam Taylor of the NOAA/NESDIS Office of Systems Development (OSD) provided a briefing NOAA's requirements process. OSD has been tasked with developing and implementing an efficient and cost-effective process to collect, assess, and allocate user requirements for integrated NOAA, national, and global environmental observing and data management systems. The goal is to move the requirements process from the current individual systems of polar, geo, and other satellites to an eventual system of systems in which all programs would be part of one system. Development of the requirements list is also being changed. Currently, the list is based primarily on users rather than consider disciplines. In the future, the requirements list will first examine the different disciplines and then will look at the requirements of the various organizations. OSD's next steps include expanding the collection of requirements to all needs, regardless of platform; expand the organization in determining the requirements; and expand the requirements database to an integrated platform-independent database to include more users.

Overview of Civil Agencies Commercial Remote Sensing Requirements and Procurement Strategies

R.J. Thompson of the USGS provided a briefing on the civil agencies' requirements and procurement policy. As part of the U.S. CRS Space Policy implementing actions, the U.S. civil agencies were directed to submit a plan for establishing an effective partnership between the civil agencies and U.S. industry to support the goals of the plan. USGS and the other civil agencies have developed a plan that will include: requirements for imagery and geospatial information that can be provided by CRS capabilities; allocation of resources to meet civil requirements; mechanisms for interagency coordination, including NGA; and the feasibility of designating a single agency to be the civil procurement agent. USGS will be the lead agency for collection of near-term product requirements. It will survey each civil agency for its product requirements and will compile these requirements into an aggregate list. NOAA has the responsibility for collecting the civil agencies' long-term observation requirements. These requirements will help assess the need for future observations.

NOAA Licensing Program Coordination

Timothy Stryker of NOAA gave a briefing on NOAA's Licensing program. NOAA has been actively involved in implementation of the CRS Space Policy and has conducted a

Request for Information and will review its regulations. It is also working with the other reviewing agencies to find ways to streamline the licensing process. To get a better understanding of the U.S. CRS market, NOAA has supported the ASPRS 10-year Market Study of the US remote sensing industry. The study should be ready for distribution in early 2004. NOAA has recently worked with a contractor to create a database of the availability of foreign remote sensing satellites (both current and planned). The database is undergoing review by NOAA and should be available for public use in the near future. NOAA is also participating in a international study of the commercial space sector sponsored by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. NOAA is preparing to commission a study on foreign remote sensing legal regimes and policies, and intends to release a Request for Proposal for the study in FY 04.

Briefing on the December SRI Commercial Remote Sensing Symposium

Kevin O'Connell provided a briefing on the CRS Conference that was sponsored by the Strategic Research Institute. Mr. O'Connell had served as the moderator for the conference. Mr. O'Connell came away from the conference with a few thoughts: the American education system is not producing enough students that are interested in geospatial technology; it is too early to tell the impact of the new space policy; though, the policy is increasing the visibility of commercial remote sensing for the federal agencies.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Actions from the Meeting

The following actions for the Committee were taken:

1. In light of the issues raised by the ACCRES White Paper, provide committee recommendations to NOAA on improving/streamlining licensing procedures and approaches. (Action: all Committee members, through K. O'Connell)
Due Date: NLT February 1, 2004.
2. Consult with Committee members and make recommendation to NOAA concerning the establishment of a task group to investigate new, future technologies which are likely to be proposed for licensing. Consider possible NOAA arrangements for a priori or presumption of approval for certain classes of technologies/capabilities. (Action: Committee member to be determined).
Due Date: March 31, 2004.
3. Examine the differences between commercialization and privatization approaches to remote sensing, and their relationship to public releasability and public domain issues. (Action: J. Gabrynowicz).
Due Date: Next full Committee meeting
4. Provide comments to NOAA on the supporting role for CRS firms can play within the international GEO framework. (Action: all Committee members)

Due Date: February 29, 2004.

5. Provide comments to NOAA on the possible scope and further direction of the Committee's work plan beyond specific licensing/regulatory issues. (Action: all Committee members

Due Date: February 29, 2004.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.