INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND REMOTE SENSING
INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR PHOTOGRAMMETRIE UND FERNERKUNDUNG
SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE DE PHOTOGRAMMÉTRIE ET DE TÉLÉDÉTECTION

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28 September 1998

Ref: *Pr-01-647*

European Patent Office
Attn: Chairman Examining Division-2213
Erhardt Strasse 27
D-80298 Munich, Germany

Subject: Opposition to EP 0 700 506 B1, Method for Geometry Measurement

Dear Sir,

I am writing as President of the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) to state our opposition to the recently granted European Patent EP 0 700 506 B1, "Method for Geometry Measurement". The basis of this opposition is that the methods claimed in the Patent are standard methods utilized within photogrammetry, i.e. photogrammetric methods established well before the priority date of the patent. Indeed, they represent significant mathematical and methodological procedures which have been at the core of the science of photogrammetry for decades.

ISPRS is an international scientific society with 100 Ordinary Member societies and organizations, each representing a different country, as well as seven Associate Member societies, seven Regional Member Associations and 42 Sustaining Members. The majority of the Sustaining Members are private sector photogrammetric mapping/measuring companies.

Based on its wide-ranging membership, ISPRS can be said to be the international voice of photogrammetry. Thus, when a patent is issued on methods which are common knowledge within the science and technology of photogrammetry, the Society believes that its voice of opposition should be clearly heard.

It is the Society's understanding that there will be a number of 'opponents' who will submit comprehensive statements of opposition to the patent "Method for Geometry Measurement". It is therefore not the purpose of this letter to specifically offer technical rebuttals to Claims 1 through 8. Instead, the purpose is more to lend the scientific weight of the Society to statements of opposition made by individual organizations, some of which might be

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Sustaining Members of the society. From our point of view, however, we would like to reiterate our concern that patent protection appears to have been given to the common knowledge, fundamental image/object orientation procedures which, are embodied in methods for calculating point positions and establishing camera positions and orientations, and which form the basis of our science. While it is true that these have evolved over time due to developments in computational processes and, more recently, the introduction of digital imaging sensors, they are nevertheless the same fundamental methods which have been used for decades. The so-called "new" developments of methods claimed by the patent are common knowledge and well documented in numerous papers published in Society conference and symposia proceedings, and in other relevant journals and text books.

On behalf of the ISPRS and the international photogrammetric community I would implore the European Patent Office to re-examine the subject patent application. From our standpoint we strongly urge that the patent should be revoked for it claims methods which are and have been common knowledge within our scientific community long before the patent priority date. The patent application is presented in a language which appears designed to conceal this very fact.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence W. Fritz
President ISPRS

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