

# ISPRS Sustaining Members

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## News from Sustaining Members

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### ESRI

#### ESRI's Geography Network Goes Live!

ESRI is pleased to announce the launch of the Geography Network, a collaborative and multi-participant system for publishing, sharing, and using digital geographic information on the Internet.

The Geography Network can be thought of as a large online library of distributed GIS information, available to everyone. It has been designed to adhere to open standards for the dissemination and sharing of data and services. Professional users can connect to the Geography Network and directly use the data and application services provided by other participants. Data can be shared and integrated using a wide spectrum of simple to advanced GIS and visualisation software technologies. GIS browser software on the Geography Network allows users to freely visualise, query, and analyse data. GIS software can also be used to connect one or more sites at the same time and using the techniques of digital map overlay and visualisation, users can simultaneously combine and analyse many types of data from different sources.

The Geography Network is an open system designed using industry standards and protocols. It serves as a test bed for data providers and the Open GIS Consortium. The Geography Network is designed for GIS users who wish to share and disseminate their data; discover and use other people's data by searching the metadata catalogue; provide applications, such as loca-

tion and mapping capabilities; and sell data and applications.

Geography Network users will be able to access online tools that allow them to define an area of interest and search for specific geographic content. A secondary menu will guide the user to mapping services and geographic data that are available for the selected study area.

This will not only eliminate the need for the protracted Web searches currently required to find the data needed for a project but will also make the content immediately accessible online.

Hundreds of data layers are currently available through the Geography Network. Worldwide offerings include political, elevation, vegetation, land use, socio-economic statistics, and satellite imagery, to name a few. U.S. data includes administrative boundaries, detailed streets, topographic maps, natural hazards, environmental hazards, demographic statistics, crime statistics, aerial photography, and much more.

Observes Jack Dangermond, ESRI President, "Perhaps the most interesting and important implication of the Geography Network is that citizens from around the world will be able to share in the rich treasures of information currently maintained and accessed by only a few. The result will be that over time everyone will learn and better understand how the world works. This will lead to better personal decisions and facilitate more participation and collaboration in the decision making that effects how the world evolves."

For more information, visit the Geography Network site at [www.GeographyNetwork.com](http://www.GeographyNetwork.com).

(Source: ESRI)



### EarthWatch

#### EarthWatch Incorporated Announces Alaska Mapping Project

EarthWatch Incorporated, an imaging and information company, announced today that it has received an additional delivery order totalling \$710,964 for data acquisition of seven sites in the State of Alaska as part of the Company's ongoing Scientific Data Purchase (SDP) Program \$9.9M contract with the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA). As the prime contractor for this data purchase, EarthWatch Incorporated is providing Intermap Technologies' STAR-3I IFSAR radar data to the SDP Program.

The seven Alaska sites, totalling almost 17,000 km<sup>2</sup> of data, were collected in the August-September 2000 time-

frame. Once delivered to NASA, the data will be made available to ESE researchers by request through the SDP website. The data will be used for a variety of scientific research including land use, land cover, terrain modelling, glacier and watershed studies as well as providing improved elevation mapping of primary Alaskan airports in the cities of Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks.

"We are excited to continue our work with Intermap Technologies to provide NASA-affiliated researchers with additional high-quality radar image and digital elevation products previously not available in Alaska". "Intermap's STAR-3I IFSAR product has been receiving rave reviews from NASA ESE researchers who have received and utilised the imagery. The demand for additional sites to be acquired through SDP continues to increase" said Brett Thomassie, Director of Civil Government Programs for EarthWatch Incorporated.

EarthWatch Incorporated, in partnership with Intermap

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Technologies, Inc., is providing radar and elevation data from an airborne Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IFSAR) system. The products consist of Orthorectified Image (ORI) Maps and Digital Elevation Models (DEMs). The STAR-3i X-band radar imagery is collected at 2.5-meter pixel resolution.

EarthWatch Incorporated, through the SDP contract, has also provided NASA with data over Indonesia, Central America, and selected U.S. sites for a variety of scientific research and applications.

EarthWatch is a commercial imagery and information

content provider located in Longmont, Colorado. The company's key product is the digitalglobe.com on-line imagery store, an Internet-based global archive of geographic information. It is also launching its own constellation of earth imaging satellites, allowing the company to provide custom-tasked high-resolution panchromatic and multispectral imagery to commercial businesses and governments worldwide. Key investors include ITT, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, Ball Aerospace and Technologies, and Hitachi Ltd.

(Source: EarthWatch Incorporated)

## Space Imaging

### Space Imaging Celebrates the IKONOS Satellite's First Year in Space; Top 10 Images Released

Space Imaging, the world's only company to offer commercially available one-metre resolution satellite imagery, announced that its IKONOS satellite celebrated its one-year anniversary in space Sunday, 24 Sept. The satellite was launched 24 Sept. 1999 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Cal. Since 1 Jan. 1 2000, when IKONOS imagery was first made available for sale to customers, the IKONOS satellite has logged many milestones. It has:

- Collected 24 million square kilometres of imagery

- Created 200,000 images, which are housed in Space Imaging's digital archive
- Flown 232 million kilometres around the Earth
- Collected images over every continent on the Earth's surface

In celebration of this anniversary, Space Imaging is showcasing 10 of the year's most visually striking IKONOS photographs on the company's Web site. These images show the Great Pyramids of Egypt; California's Hollywood sign; the Olympic Park venue in Sydney, Australia; Hoover Dam; London's Millennium Wheel; San Francisco Harbour; Hong Kong Harbour; Mecca, Saudi Arabia; and a before and after of the bombing of Grozny, Chechnya. The Web site address is [www.spaceimaging.com](http://www.spaceimaging.com).

(Source: Space Imaging)

## Space Imaging

### Space Imaging Signs on ESRI as a Master Reseller Agreement with ESRI Expands Market Reach to GIS Users

Space Imaging announced that it has signed up ESRI, the leading provider of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, as a master reseller. This agreement allows ESRI customers to buy Space Imaging CARTERRA(tm) products directly from ESRI, and for ESRI resellers to sell CARTERRA products.

Under this agreement, Space Imaging gains access to ESRI's North American sales force of more than 400 resellers and, ultimately, to the resellers' extended customer base. By leveraging these existing resources with a company that excels in customer service and provides user-friendly products, Space Imaging broadens its reach into the GIS community. ESRI customers come from a range of markets including state and local government, federal mapping, telecommunications, environment, real estate, banking and utilities. With ESRI specialising in more than 30 industries, this agreement will help increase the adoption rate of satellite imagery.

"ESRI is considered the leader in the GIS software industry in terms of innovation and customer relationships," said John Cople, CEO of Space Imaging. "We welcome the opportunity to leverage ESRI's valuable resources and tap into markets in which ESRI already has an established presence."

As a master reseller for Space Imaging, ESRI will be able to strengthen and add value to the solid customer relationships the company has already fostered. By selling Space Imaging's CARTERRA products along with its GIS software, ESRI and its channel can provide its customers with a single source for high-quality satellite and aerial imagery, thereby enabling their customers to purchase the software at volume discounts.

"As a software company that supplies tools to users who need to easily manipulate and analyse very large satellite image files, we are in an ideal position to help Space Imaging reach its target audiences," said Jack Dangermond, President and Founder of ESRI. "Now, we supply a one-stop shop for Space Imaging customers by providing both the software and the imagery to help them do their jobs efficiently."

[www.spaceimaging.com](http://www.spaceimaging.com).

(Source: Space Imaging)

## EarthWatch

### EarthWatch Announces QuickBird 1 Satellite A Loss

EarthWatch Incorporated announced the loss of the QuickBird 1 remote sensing satellite. The announcement follows a launch failure of the 1-meter resolution commercial imaging satellite on November 20 (GMT), 2000 from Plesetsk, Russia. Initial indications are that the QuickBird 1 failed to achieve its proper orbit.

EarthWatch President and Chief Executive Officer, Herb Satterlee, stated, "The loss of QuickBird 1 is a great disappointment not just to EarthWatch, but to customers worldwide who are eager to receive high-resolution com-

mercial imagery from EarthWatch. EarthWatch is currently reviewing a range of options to determine what is in the best interest of their stakeholders. We will provide more information when it becomes available."

EarthWatch is a commercial imagery and information content provider located in Longmont, Colorado. The company offers imagery through the digitalglobe.com on-line imagery store, an Internet-based global archive of geographic information. It is also launching its own constellation of earth imaging satellites, allowing the company to provide high-resolution panchromatic and multispectral imagery to commercial businesses and governments worldwide.

[www.digitalglobe.com](http://www.digitalglobe.com)

(Source: EarthWatch, Incorporated)

## Leica

### Leica Geosystems Is Making Big Steps

What has been clear to geomatics experts for a long time is now also impressing shareholders: Leica Geosystems AG (Germany) is growing fast! Being traded on the Swiss Exchange of Zurich (SWX) from 12 July 2000 on, the share price increased already on the first three days by 29%.

For the investors community of Switzerland the 'going public' of Leica Geosystems, Heerbrugg has been one of the most successful Initial Public Offerings (IPO) this year. As Hans Hess, President and CEO, said, the company is combining in its product portfolio the values of traditional industry and new economy. Investcorp, the former own-

ers of this 180 years old company, has offered last Wednesday the Leica Geosystems shares to a price of 375 Swiss Francs to the public, and this price climbed already the following three days up to 488 Swiss Francs. A part of the shares is held by members of Leica Geosystems' management, but also two third of the 2,325 employees have taken profit of this situation by buying shares of 'their' company at the IPO price.

Already at the end of June, Leica Geosystems could report a very successful business year 1999/2000 which ended on 31 March 2000. Turnover grew in this period of time by 15% to 540 million Swiss Francs and the operating profit showed a rise of 51% to 31 million Swiss Franc in the same time.

[www.leica-geosystems.com](http://www.leica-geosystems.com)

(Source: Leica Geosystems)

## Applanix

### Online Presence for Customer Support/Technical Department

As with any web page, the Applanix site is a constant work in progress. Our most recent web site updates include a long-awaited online presence for our Customer Support/Technical department .

This is a significant advantage for our clients. It allows password controlled access to technical manuals and product updates, and faster, more qualified access to Applanix' technical resources . It also includes more specific and technical information on our POS™ products than was previously available on our site – including some Frequently Asked Questions.

We have also added copies of a few technical papers that have been presented at trade events over the last few months. These include a paper that was delivered at the most recent SEG 2000 Convention and Trade Show, held in Calgary this past August. This document introduces the Position and Orientation System for Land Survey (POS/LSTM) being developed by Applanix for land survey applications. Specifically, POS/LS will initially be made available for use in seismic surveying.

POS/LS is derived from the Applanix POS product family, and will include Applanix' next generation tightly coupled inertial/GPS integration. As a second generation aided inertial navigation instrument for land survey, it offers several advantages over the first-generation instruments. The POS/LSTM will be designed to provide continuous position information in a variety of survey conditions, ranging from full GPS signal availability to complete GPS signal

blockage for the entire survey. This attribute is called robust positioning, and is a consequence of careful integration of available aiding data into an aided inertial navigation system that is the core of the POS/LS.

A similar addition to the website is the recent paper given by Dr. Bruno Scherzinger, Applanix's chief scientist, at the ION GPS 2000 Conference and Trade Show in Salt Lake City. This presentation focused on the introduction of Tightly-Coupled inertial/RTK-GPS software to some of Applanix' land products. Tightly-Coupled inertial/RTK-GPS is particularly well suited to maintaining long-term accuracy during partial GPS outages where there are only 2 or 3 satellites visible.

The use of Tightly-Coupled inertial/RTK integration

allows integer RTK recovery in the 1–5 second range following a complete outage – even with as few as 4 – 5 GPS satellites. Tight integration is ideal for robust RTK-level positioning in adverse environments such as in urban canyons, under canopy and around construction sites. Applications that will benefit from using Applanix' Tightly-Coupled POS systems include road surveying, machine control, seismic survey and the evolving world of intelligent transportation systems (ITS).

A comprehensive presentation of our POS/LVTM (Land Based) products is now available via the Applanix website – including application test results, current and future uses and other LV developments.

[www.applanix.com](http://www.applanix.com).

(Source: Applanix)

## PCI

### PCI and SICAD Sign Strategic Agreement

PCI Geomatics (Canada) and SICAD Geomatics (Germany) have reached a strategic alliance to provide geospatial products, applications and solutions with a strong emphasis on urban and regional aspects. This

agreement focuses on providing infrastructure and environmental development technology and geospatial information technology to the global geomatics marketplace. In addition, this agreement will include technical integration of their complementary product portfolios as well as joint activities which will market the PCI Geomatics and SICAD Geomatics product portfolios worldwide.

[www.pcigeomatics.com](http://www.pcigeomatics.com)

(Source: PCI Geomatics)

## Open GIS Consortium

### New Member OGC Staff

The Open GIS Consortium, Inc. (OGC) (MA, USA) has announced that Jeffrey G. Harrison joined the staff in August as an interoperability Program Specialist. As Project Manager for OGC Interoperability Initiatives, he plans projects, manages schedules and co-ordinates sponsors and participants in testbeds, demonstrations, prototypes, pilot programmes, reference implementations and technology insertion projects. Mr. Harrison is also responsible for enlisting the support and involvement of U.S. Federal, State and Local Government sectors in Interoperability Initiatives for OGC.

Prior to joining OGC, Mr. Harrison was the Program



*Jeffrey Harrison, formerly a Program Manager for the US Army Engineer Research and Development Centre, has joined OGC's staff as an Interoperability Program Specialist*

Manager for the U.S. Army Engineer research and Development Center (ERDC) Web Mapping Technology (WMT) Program.

[www.opengis.org](http://www.opengis.org)

(Source: Open GIS Consortium)

## Inpho

### New Inpho Project Manager

Dr. Eberhard Gülch has joined Inpho GmbH (Germany) as Project Manager for Advanced Technologies. He is respon-

sible for the development of the semi-automatic building extraction system inJECT. In addition, he will identify new commercial and partner opportunities for feature extraction and other areas. Dr. Gülch has long experience in automated terrain model generation, image analysis and different types of feature extraction projects.

(Source: Inpho)

## Space Imaging

### New Equity Position for Space Imaging

Space Imaging (CO, USA) is to join Data Transmission Network and Photon Research Associates in holding an equity position in EarthScan. The objective of this agreement is to continue to accelerate the introduction and use of remote sensing in the agriculture industry. EarthScan is an internet-based tool that provides a service

for crop health determination, acreage measurement and field performance zone creation and management. Prior to the launch of the Space Imaging IKONOS satellite, remote sensing products were available on a very limited distribution basis and were very costly. By breaking into the mass-market with a low cost product that meets the needs of the agriculture market, EarthScan is able to provide systems integration services for large agricultural concerns on a much wider scale.

[www.spaceimaging.com](http://www.spaceimaging.com).

(Source: Space Imaging)

## Matra Systèmes

### Services for Bush Fire Observatory in Africa

Following an initiative by ADIE (Association for the Development of Environmental Information), Matra Systèmes & Information (France) was selected to provide services and equipment within the framework of the installation of a Bush Fire Observatory (OFB/UTI) in Africa.

Within the framework of this project and in partnership with Fleximage and SCOT, Matra Systèmes & Information

will provide for the delivery and installation of equipment (hardware and software) to ADIE facilities, as well as for training, on-site assistance and remote assistance by experts.

The installation of a bush fire observatory represents an efficient means of controlled management of fires and has a useful ecological, sociological and economic impact on the general and long-lasting development of the area.

This project, which provides remote sensing, cartographic production and photo-interpretation services, will bolster ADIE capacity for the dissemination and development of bush fire information products.

(Source: Matra Systèmes)

## Z/I Imaging

### Agreement on Automatic Terrain Collection Software

Z/I Imaging Corporation (AL, USA) has completed an agreement with Inpho GmbH of Stuttgart, Germany, to acquire unrestricted rights to their automatic terrain collection package, MATCH T. Under the agreement, both Z/I Imaging and Inpho will develop independent future versions of the package. The agreement became effective as of 1st August 2000. MATCH T provides technology in

automatic extraction of Digital Terrain Model (DTM) elevation points from digital aerial stereo images. A high degree of automation is achieved through the use of hierarchical image data structures and image processing methods. MATCH T improves automatic DTM generation by using existing DTM points, and monitors DTM point quality with online visualisation tools. The two companies have formulated a technical transition plan for MATCH T.

[www.ziimaging.com](http://www.ziimaging.com)

(Source: Z/I Imaging)

## Eastman Kodak

### Kodak Acquisition Research Systems, Inc.

The Eastman Kodak Company (NY, USA) Commercial & Government System (C&GS) business unit and Research Systems, Inc. (RSI) has announced acquisition of RSI.

Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed. RSI employs 140 people worldwide. It will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Kodak as part of the Kodak C&GS business unit. RSI software allows customers to 'visualise' and

interpret complex data collected from remote sensing platforms such as earth observation satellites and diagnostic instruments in a variety of applications. The union of RSI products and C&GS government and commercial offerings will enable Kodak to win new business in such markets as engineering, meteorology, oceanography, physical sciences, insurance, construction, mineral exploration, medical and government. The RSI acquisition augments Kodak image analysis capabilities.

(Source: Eastman Kodak)

## Other News

### Intermap

#### Intermap Launches New Business Initiative with \$3.8 Million Contract

Intermap Technologies Inc. announced it has signed a \$3.8 million US contract with EarthWatch Incorporated, one of the largest commercial satellite companies in the United States, to supply precision digital mapping data for its new Quickbird satellite.

"Images and DEMs resulting from this project will provide, in digital form, the world's most advanced, accurate and consistent maps on a nationwide scale," said Brian Bullock, Intermap President and CEO. "We are delighted our customer for these precision geocoded images is our long-time business partner EarthWatch."

EarthWatch, of Longmont, Colorado, will be collecting Quickbird satellite images of high-growth urban centres in the U.S. Intermap Technologies will supply EarthWatch with Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data that will allow the creation of precision satellite image products for these areas.

"Intermap has a strong heritage of photogrammetric mapping and airborne radar experience, making Intermap the company with the commercial capacity to meet our worldwide demand for accurate, low-cost digital elevation models (DEMs)" said Herb Satterlee, President and CEO of EarthWatch.

"With the Quickbird satellite scheduled for launch in mid-November, we wanted to position ourselves to be able to provide our Distributor network with quality, precision

data," Mr. Satterlee added. "The DEMs that will be provided by Intermap will be used to create precision Quickbird products, and are therefore vital in meeting an increasing global demand for precision maps".

Intermap expects to begin work on the contract immediately after EarthWatch launches its Quickbird satellite. The Intermap DEMs will also be made available to the commercial market through Intermap's GLOBAL Terrain™ store.

Mr. Bullock said Intermap has just completed a detailed market analysis of its core business, "and this contract represents an important endorsement for one of several initiatives defined in that study, namely the provision of high-resolution data to improve the accuracy of satellite images. Intermap also expects that new products, such as high resolution satellite images fused with Intermap's detailed DEMs, will meet the needs of a growing 3D visualisation market." He added Intermap is the only mapping company with the commercial capacity to meet world demand for accurate, low-cost digital elevation models (DEMs).

Mr. Bullock said the EarthWatch agreement brings the value of STAR-3i contracts Intermap has signed this year to over \$7 million, a 38% increase over the total of all STAR-3i contracts signed during the 1999 fiscal year. "The company is very encouraged by market response to our new initiatives. We can expect increased sales as satellites collect more worldwide data."

The Canadian Venture Exchange has neither approved nor disapproved of the information contained herein

[www.intermaptechnologies.com](http://www.intermaptechnologies.com)  
(Source: *Intermap Technologies Inc.*)

### Intermap

#### Intermap Announces \$870,751 US STAR-3i Mapping Projects

Intermap Technologies Inc. and its prime contractor EarthWatch Incorporated of Longmont, Colorado announced they have received contract extensions totalling \$870,751 US for sophisticated digital elevation mapping in South America, bringing Intermap's current contract there to more than \$1.9 million. The contracts are additions to work in several South America countries that was announced previously.

"We are very pleased this work continues our strong working relationship with EarthWatch," said Brian Bullock, Intermap President and CEO. "EarthWatch recognises the unique capabilities of our STAR-3i Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IFSAR) tech-

nology in meeting their mapping needs. In South America, the ability to collect large amounts of high accuracy data in a very efficient manner combined with STAR-3i's cloud penetrating capability makes it ideal for their needs".

The DEM products collected will have a data point every 10m and each point will have a vertical accuracy of 3 metres. All of the new Digital Elevation Models (DEM) and Ortho-rectified Radar Imagery (ORRI) data will be added to Intermap's GLOBAL Terrain store ([www.globalterrain.com](http://www.globalterrain.com)), where it will be available for sale off-the-shelf.

Mr. Bullock added that all the required permits are in place and with this additional work, STAR-3i will be dedicated to work in South America for the fourth quarter.

The Canadian Venture Exchange has neither approved nor disapproved of the information contained herein.

[www.intermaptechnologies.com](http://www.intermaptechnologies.com)  
(Source: *Intermap Technologies Inc.*)