

Welcome to Sydney

Welcome to Sydney, Australia and the 34th ISRSE. On behalf of our hosts, the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute in Australia, the International Center for Remote Sensing of the Environment (ICRSE) and CSIRO, we are delighted that you have come to Sydney, Australia's largest city, to participate in this important event in the international calendar of conferences on remote sensing of the environment.

A diverse, stimulating and challenging five-day scientific program has been developed for this meeting involving workshops, plenary, oral and electronic presentations from international and local speakers. The plenary sessions have been planned to cover subjects that should currently be of interest to all, including: Earth Observation Supporting Disaster Management and Situational Awareness; Briefings from Space Agencies; GEO Forest Carbon; Space Policies; a Panel on Climate and Water; and a Vision for the Future. You are all strongly encouraged to attend these sessions. The electronic presentations are a new innovation for this Symposium that will enable speakers to present their digital papers at programmed times, but also at other times for those who may have missed a presentation of interest. Delegates will also be able to view the presentations individually. Given that the 10-year Implementation Plan of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) is now well underway, the Symposium also provides an important opportunity for members of several GEO task teams to meet and present details of progress of their work.

The International Program Committee have had a difficult task in managing the large number of abstracts that were received, and have done their best in preparing a manageable program of 5 parallel sessions. This required the assessment of the significance of the abstracts and accommodating requests of authors, who wish to present their work, join in the discussions and to share their work with colleagues. This has been the intention of the ISRSE since its inception in 1962. We believe that this 34th ISRSE will provide excellent opportunities to demonstrate the importance of Earth observation from air and space which are critical for monitoring the Earth's environment and maintaining its sustainability. Naturally, the opportunity to network with colleagues is very important and we are confident that you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity during breaks and the social functions.

A conference like this does not happen without a lot of personal effort on a voluntary basis. In particular, I wish to thank the willing local and overseas committee members who have assisted in planning this Symposium and especially the Technical Program Committee for their excellent work. I would also like to thank the many exhibitors and sponsors who have contributed to the success of this Symposium, especially our Platinum Sponsor NASA, our Gold Sponsors, ESA and ESRI, and our Silver Sponsor Digital Globe.

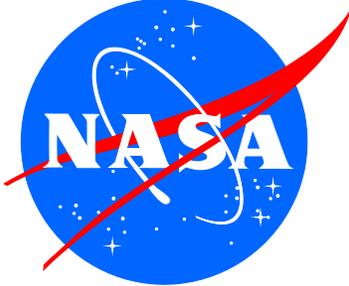
I hope that you have an exciting and scientifically productive week downunder and that you find time to enjoy Australian hospitality and culture.

John Trinder
For the Organising Committee

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