



## Editorial



### 1 Metre Resolution at Last

The photogrammetry and remote sensing community have looked forward to new high resolution sources of data derived from space, for more than 5 years. On the September 24 1999 the anticipation was over, when the Space Imaging IKONOS high resolution satellite was successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. The imaging system simultaneously collects one-metre resolution black-and-white (panchromatic) images and four-metre resolution colour (multi-spectral) images. Space Imaging report that we can look forward to viewing the data within 60-90 days, after system testing and calibration have taken place. Researchers, scientist, educators and practitioners can look forward to a new era of remote sensing, with data being able to detect information that was previously not visible on space borne remotely sensed images. The availability of the data will have an impact on many aspects of remote sensing. It has been stated that the data will be suitable for mapping for scales up to 1:10,000 and that it will replace medium and small scale aerial photography. The multi-spectral data will also have a higher resolution than has yet been available, and should therefore enable the discrimination of details that is not possible with 20-30 metre resolution data, provided the spectral signatures of the features are compatible with the data. An issue that will become important is the access to this commercially sourced data, as emphasised in the ISPRS President's statement to The United Nations UNISPACE III conference in Vienna in July, which was published in ISPRS Highlights in September 1999.

The applications of this data as well as the political and social implications of its availability will be important topics for discussion at the Amsterdam Congress in 16-23 July 2000. As well as technical sessions on all aspects of the fields of interest of ISPRS, there will also be Special Sessions covering such topics as UNISPACE III, Agenda 21 and sustainable development, global change, data availability/policy, business opportunities and high technology, and Education and the Profession.

There will therefore be benefits to everyone interested in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences in attending the Amsterdam Congress.

At the Council meeting in The Netherlands in September this year it was announced that over the past 6 months, three new ISPRS Ordinary Members, two new Associate Members, and one new Regional Member were admitted to ISPRS by postal ballot. In addition, one new Sustaining Member was admitted by Council. This

brings the Membership of ISPRS to 103 Ordinary Members, 9 Associate Members, 9 Regional Members and 48 Sustaining Members. ISPRS clearly continues to grow in membership as it demonstrates to the world, its adaptability to the new technologies that are impacting on the spatial information industry. We look forward to meeting representatives of these new members at the Congress.

The ISPRS Congress comprises many components. As well as the plenary and technical sessions, there are the social events which enable attendees to relax with people from many countries in an informal atmosphere after the day's work at the Congress, presentations of ISPRS Awards, and sessions of the General Assembly which is the decision making body of the Society. All Members have already been notified about the Awards and have been requested to consider appropriate applicants. They will be determined by juries over the next few months. There is still time to submit nominations for most of these awards. The General Assembly will, amongst other matters, receive reports from the Council, determine the new officers, determine the location of the Congress in 2004, approve revisions to the Statutes and Bylaws, and approve Resolutions that will determine the directions of the science and technology of ISPRS for the next 4 years. Invitations for Ordinary Members to nominate individuals for positions on Council, Technical Commission Presidents, and the Financial Commission, as well as host the Congress, were sent out earlier this year. The nominations must be received by 29 February 2000. I encourage all members to consider appropriate individuals for these positions.

I look forward to meeting representatives of all ISPRS Members during the Congress in Amsterdam next July. As 1999 draws to a close and a new millennium approaches, I wish everyone an enjoyable festive season and a prosperous new year.

John Trinder  
Secretary General

