

Landsat

The scientific and commercial value of data from Landsat — the world's first civil earth-observation satellite program — continues to increase. Technological improvements of Landsat 7 (launched in April 1999) include sharper images that are twice as crisp as earlier Landsat images. Landsat data can now be analyzed using new desktop computer hardware and software. This accessibility increases the value of the data for all users including State and local land managers and scientists.

To be used effectively, Landsat 7 data need to be collected, transmitted, received, processed, stored, and available for

distribution. The proposed increase in FY 2001 will meet the need to ensure stability of Landsat 7 system operations over the long term.

Data from Landsat satellites have provided the United States and international users with a continuous stream of land-image data since 1972. The wealth of data now available — with more continuing to arrive — provides an unprecedented ability to look at changes on the Earth over nearly three decades. Seasonal global data sets will be of increasing value to the United States and the international scientific community.

Last year, the Department of the Interior, through its science bureau, the USGS, assumed program management responsibility for Landsat 7, which includes oversight of U.S. Government access rights to all Landsat data in the archives of international cooperators, a function previously managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The USGS will ensure access to international archives through cooperative working relationships.

The USGS partners with NASA in carrying out Landsat program management responsibilities. Customers of Landsat data include Federal and international land-management and earth science agencies; State and local governments; commercial engineering, mapping, and earth-resource companies; and entrepreneurs who use satellite image data.

National Mapping Program	(Dollars in Thousands)
Mapping Data Collection and Integration	+\$ 5,000



As the nation's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the USGS works in cooperation with more than 2000 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial, scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. This information is gathered in every state by USGS scientists to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, contribute to sound economic and physical development of the nation's natural resources, and enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.

