

# Status of the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM)

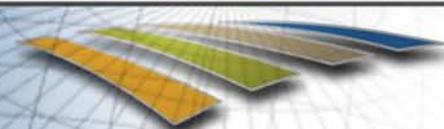
*presented by*

**Jim Irons**

**Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM) Project Scientist  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center**

*at the*

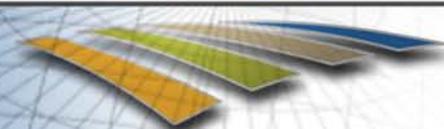
**LCLUC Science Team: Significant Results Meeting  
UMUC Inn and Conference Center  
College Park, Maryland  
January 20, 2004**



## Legislated Mandate

**LDCM**

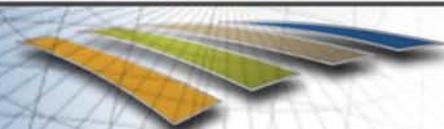
- The Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992(P.L. 102-55) directed Landsat Program Management (now NASA & USGS) to assess options for a successor land remote sensing system to Landsat 7 including:
  1. Private sector funding and management
  2. Establishing an international consortium
  3. Funding and management by the United States Government
  4. A cooperative effort between the United States Government and the private sector
- “Preference should be given to the development of such a system by the private sector”



## Chronology of LDCM Events

**LDCM**

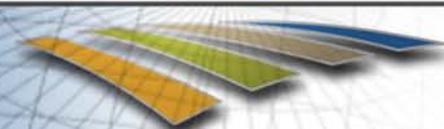
- July 09, 1999: Released RFI for procurement of Landsat-like data
  - respondents did not believe Landsat 30m data was commercially viable
  - favored contractor owned and operated systems, but were willing to consider innovative procurement options
- Nov.06, 2000: Posted first draft of LDCM Data Specification on Internet for public review and comment
- Jan. 09 - 10, 2001: LDCM Workshop at USGS HQ, Reston, VA
- April 26, 2001: LDCM Workshop at ASPRS Spring Meeting, St. Louis, MO
- Nov. 01, 2001: Released LDCM Formulation Phase RFP
- March 15, 2002: Awarded two \$5M Formulation Phase contracts
  - DigitalGlobe
  - Resource21



## Chronology of LDCM Events (cont.)

**LDCM**

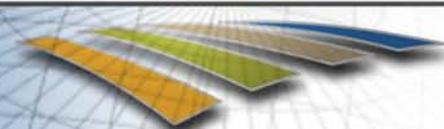
- Jan. 06, 2003: Released LDCM Implementation Phase RFP
  - Requested proposals for procurement of data from privately owned and commercially operated satellite system
  - Included Data Specification, Data Policy, and Calibration Requirements
  - Feb. 25 proposal deadline
- April 25, 2003: OSTP released U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Policy
- Sept. 26, 2003: Cancelled Implementation Phase RFP
  - Response failed to meet key objective of RFP; to form a fair and equitable partnership
  - Expected that Government' cost of acquiring Landsat data would be reduced by private industry's equity investment
  - Response left the Government with a disproportionate share of the costs and risks of system development



## Next Steps

**LDCM**

- Consistent with the 1992 Act, NASA and the USGS are considering other options for ensuring Landsat data continuity in consultation with the Administration and Congress
  - NASA has characterized a government owned / government operated system as the least desirable option
  - Inter-agency working group is currently examining options



## Pending Congressional Guidance

**LDCM**

- Excerpt from "CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004 -- (House of Representatives - November 25, 2003)"
  - “ the conferees instruct NASA to immediately begin developing a successor to the Landsat 7 system in accordance with P.L. 102-555. Furthermore, the conferees instruct NASA, working in conjunction with the United States Geological Survey, to develop a successor system that may be implemented in the near term based on the remaining options cited in the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act. It is the conferee's expectation that NASA will include in its FY 2005 budget justification a detailed plan and timeline for developing a successor system to Landsat 7.”