

Aerial sensing techniques are essential, Rouse says

Governmental efforts to manage pollution problems will not be successful until aircraft remote sensing techniques are developed and incorporated into agency operations, the director of A&M's Remote Sensing Center believes.

Dr. John W. Rouse Jr. told the American Society of Photogrammetry seminar in Houston Wednesday "it is difficult to imagine we can establish realistic pollution standards for industries and municipal governments without such overview (airborne) information."

He said the middle ground between the environmentalists' pleas for clean air and water and the

industrialists' need to economically dispose of waste products is most likely to be found using airborne sensors than by any other means.

Dr. Rouse chairs the Environmental Monitoring Panel at the Tuesday through Friday meeting. He warned seminar participants remote sensing experts were overdue "in combining our remote sensor technology and our space travel capabilities to enable us to begin appraisal of this critical issue."

He said environmentalists have a strong argument that the ecology is in danger.

"It is becoming increasingly evident we are unable to realistically

evaluate the dynamics of urban water pollution using only measurements obtained from the bow of a ship," he declared. "Nor can we understand the complexity of a city's air pollution problem using only instruments mounted on towers or in balloons."

Dr. Rouse claimed environmental researchers will begin to appreciate the multiple factors associated with environmental quality by observing them from aircraft and satellite altitudes.

"Using airplanes equipped with modern remote sensing instruments, we have the potential for recording very necessary information about the input and diffusion of pollutants in rivers, lakes, estuaries, bays and in the air over large cities," Dr. Rouse said.

He noted the U. S. motivation for pollution control is a desire for an "attractive environment." The more profound issue of environmental degradation is not simply regional or national, but global in nature, he added.

Dr. Rouse also said the problems cannot be handled by any one nation and aircraft sensors used on a regional problem has no more effect than the pollution instruments aboard ships.

His contention is that space and remote sensing technology must be brought together to give a global overview of the problem.

"We cannot hope to understand this complex problem any other way," Dr. Rouse advised.

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BY THE TIME he realized what was happening, this truck driver for the Bridgewater, Vermont, Woolen Mill had left a quarter-mile train of plaid wool in the town of Ludlow. It was quickly collected, however, and the loose bolt restored to the truck. (AP Wirephoto)

Earth probably had several small moons, scientists say

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) — Two scientists say the earth may once have had five to 10 small moons that were destroyed after the present moon was formed in space and was drawn into orbit of the earth.

"The only likely possibility is that the moon swept out the space occupied by these original satellites, either colliding with them or forcing them from their normal orbits. In the latter case, the satellites would either have collided with earth or been ejected into remote space," they said.

The theory was advanced by Dr. Härmes Alfven, a Nobel Prize physicist, and Dr. Gustaf Arrhenius, both of the University of California at San Diego. They are

consultants to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on space research.

The scientists said they based their theory on a study of the evolution of other planets and their satellites.

Saturn, Jupiter and Uranus followed a "normal" pattern of development, they said.

"Each of these has five or more secondary bodies, or satellites," Alfven said. "Mars, with only two satellites, may be less typical. Mercury and Venus have no satellites, probably because of their extremely slow rotation and their lack of magnetic fields. No one knows, at present, whether or not Pluto has satellites."

Remote Sensing Center awarded NASA contract

NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston has awarded the A&M Remote Sensing Center a \$15,000 contract for continuation of airborne radar data studies.

Dr. John W. Rouse Jr., center director and principal investigator, said the objective is to develop means of remote sensing soil moisture conditions in support of hydrological studies.

Hydrology is the science dealing with properties, distribution and circulation of water on land surface, in soil and underlying rocks and in the atmosphere.

Previous studies of radar data have shown it provides information for determination of sea surface conditions, such as wave height or sea ice types, Dr. Rouse pointed out.

The research supports the NASA/MSC Earth Resources Aircraft Program which records sensing information throughout the U. S. and in several foreign countries.

A&M's work will define the utility, quality and potential application of the radar data for scientific analysis. The contract also supports development of computer models to predict the radar return from various Texas soil types.



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