

# NASA increases Remote Sensing Center grant by 25 per cent

An additional \$150,000, representing a 25 per cent increase over the previous year's grant, has been awarded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to the Remote Sensing Center of A&M.

Dr. John W. Rouse, Jr., RSC director and principal investigator for the grant, said this brings the total amount awarded the university to near \$1 million since the first grant was secured in 1962 by Dr. John C. Calhoun, Jr., now vice president for academic affairs at A&M. Dr. Calhoun obtained the initial sum of \$100,000 for three years as an interdisciplinary engineering grant.

A&M was the first university in the state to receive such a grant from NASA.

Dr. Rouse said since 1969 the grants have been devoted almost exclusively to remote sensing. The present grant provides for expansion of applications of research in water and air quality determinations.

The program includes research fundamentals for interpretation

of space satellite data related to water quality study and microwave applications to detect oil slicks, soil moisture content and sea surface conditions in the Houston-Galveston areas. Other aspects relate to studies into rangeland conditions and plant viruses.

Dr. Rouse said much study is concerned with identifying and documenting specific agricultural problems in Texas for which present remote sensing tech-

niques have potential application. He said the agricultural work is coordinated with more than 30 research stations of the university.

Remote sensing research can determine inventory and utilization of rangeland in Texas. Dr. Rouse said it can develop techniques for determining early detection of virus in crops, especially among the primary food producers such as rice, wheat, corn and sorghum. Use of the

\$150,000 is restricted to remote sensing research as a support to NASA's earth observations program at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston.

In the overall environmental problems, he said: "We are trying to find ways to get new tools into the hands of people who are responsible for problems relating to the environment."

Most federal funds have been cut back in recent years, Rouse noted. The RSC received a grant

last year and this year the grant was increased. "This attests to the effectiveness and value of the program we are conducting," Rouse pointed out.

He said six professionals and eight to ten graduate students are involved. The rangeland study is headed by Dr. Robert H. Haas, assistant professor of range sciences, who directs the vegetations systems laboratory; Dr. Robert W. Toler, assistant professor of plant sciences, con-

ducts the virus studies; Dr. William T. Mayo, assistant professor in electrical engineering, heads the air quality instrumentation developments; J. A. Schell, director of the data analysis laboratory, conducts studies on the use of advanced computer techniques for the interpretation of remote sensor data; Dr. Wesley P. James, assistant professor of civil engineering, heads the water quality studies, including operation of pollution research ves-

sels in the Galveston-Houston area in cooperation with the environmental engineering headed by Dr. Roy W. Haas, professor of civil engineering. The RSC is a consortium of Colleges of Engineering, Culture, Geosciences and Social Sciences. Fiscal management of the search is conducted by Harry Whitmore, assistant director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station in the College of Engineering.

## Senate ratifies Seabed Arms Control Treaty

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate Tuesday ratified the Seabed Arms Control Treaty which is intended to ban placing of nuclear weapons on the ocean floor.

The vote was 83 to 0. One in a decade-long series of arms-control documents, the seabed treaty exempts nuclear missile-firing submarines, and other vessels which may propel themselves to strategic resting places on the seabed.

Nations signing the treaty—Red China and France have not—have free emplacement zones in coastal waters out to 12 miles. These areas would be prime for emplacement of nuclear mines, for example.

A Pentagon representative said in hearings on the treaty that "we have no plans for doing what the treaty would forbid."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark., said his support for the treaty "is based on the judgment that it will do no harm rather than a feeling that it accomplishes much."

The truly significant arms-control treaty would be the agreement at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, Fulbright said.

President Nixon urged approval of the treaty saying, "the seabed is man's last frontier on earth, and that frontier should be the source of promise. This treaty represents a practical and timely step toward helping protect this new environment."

## Contract awarded for landing system

The awarding of a \$39,520 contract to Schouten Construction Co. of Denver, Colo., for installation of an instrument landing system at Easterwood Airport has been announced by Cong. Olin E. Teague.

The ILS installation, which will allow landings under more adverse weather conditions, is part of an overall project to repair and improve the community airport owned and operated by A&M.

Last summer the A&M University System Board of Directors awarded a \$569,735 contract to Young Brothers Inc. of Waco for renovating the facility. The contract runway repairs and site preparation for the ILS.

The FAA awarded the university a matching grant to help finance renovation work. The federal government, however, is paying the entire cost for the ILS equipment installation.

Airport Manager Truett B. Smith said ILS work will begin about March 1 and is scheduled to be completed by July. He estimated overall renovation work is approximately one-third complete.

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