

Indonesia's Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Habibie, visits ACRES



PAUL TREZISE PRESENTS DR HABIBIE WITH LANDSAT TM AND ERS-1 SAR IMAGES OVER IRIAN JAYA. PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT ARE DR INDROYONO SOESILO, DR HABIBIE, JOHN MELLORS, MR SABAM SIAGIAN AND PAUL TREZISE.

On Tuesday 30 May, ACRES hosted a visit by Dr Habibie, Indonesia's high profile Minister for Science and Technology. During his one and a half hour visit, Dr Habibie toured ACRES facilities and witnessed a number of presentations and demonstrations on the application of remote sensing in Australia. He was also briefed on the status of cooperative projects between ACRES and its Indonesian counterpart, LAPAN. He was

particularly interested in a presentation by CRA's Dr Kerry O'Sullivan on the application of remote sensing to minerals exploration, and entered into an animated debate on the subject. He was also most interested in a demonstration by ACRES' Craig Smith of shallow water mapping techniques.

Dr Habibie was accompanied on his visit by the Minister for Administrative Services, the Hon Frank Walker QC MP; the outgoing Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, Mr Sabam Siagian; the Deputy Chairman of Indonesia's BPPT, Prof. M.T. Zen; The Director of the Directorate of Technology for Natural Resources Inventory, BPPT, Dr Indroyono Soesilo; the Secretary of the Department of Administrative Services, Mr John Mellors; and the DAS Deputy Secretary for Business Development, Mr Brendan Godfrey.

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Manager's Message

Paul Trezise



The six months that have passed since the last edition of ACRES Update have been very eventful ones for ACRES.

Firstly the announcement that, after a public tendering process, British Aerospace Australia (BAeA) had been awarded the ACRES Operations and Maintenance Contract for the next 3 years. BAeA replaced CSC Australia as the contract manager on July 1st 1995. While I believe that CSC Australia achieved many significant improvements while it was at the helm of ACRES, I am confident that the wealth of experience and expertise brought by BAeA will only serve to improve the service we are able to offer our customers in the challenging years ahead.

A second key development was the implementation of ACRES new MANMAN/X manufacturing system software on July 1st. That this major initiative was successfully achieved with relatively few teething problems was a great credit to the professionalism and dedication of the ACRES staff involved, particularly Peter Pianella, Jenny Weissel and Steve Alder.

A third milestone was the letting of a contract for development of the ACRES On-line Digital Catalogue to Aspect Computing P/L of Adelaide, in conjunction with CORE Software Technology and EarthWare Systems. The implementation of this system in February 1996 will revolutionise the access to ACRES vast archive of imagery and allow customers to quickly assess the suitability of images on-line by examining digital 'quick looks'.

While all this was happening we have also seen a dramatic increase in the demand for ACRES remote sensing products. Gross sales rose by 43% in the 12 months to June 1995. We have seen a continuation of this growth in the last few months, largely due to a number of major projects in the environment and resource management arenas. These projects are using time-series remote sensing data on a scale not previously attempted in this country. Maybe remote sensing is finally shedding its 'emerging technology' tag?

I recently attended an excellent conference organised by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing entitled "Land Satellite Information in the Next Decade". It explored the vast array of remote sensing data sources that should be available over the next decade. It certainly appears as though we are going to be spoilt for choice. A major challenge for organisations like ACRES will be to understand their customer requirements sufficiently well to make informed choices about which 'horses to back'. At ACRES we are committed to meeting this challenge and providing our customers with an optimum range of products, an excellent standard of service and an efficient distribution mechanism via our nationwide network of distributors and specialist consultants.

Dennis Puniard to work on ARIES

AUSLIG's Remote Sensing Product Manager and ACRES Update editor, Dennis Puniard, has accepted a temporary offer to work as Manager for the ARIES project (Australian Resource Information and Environment Satellite). Dennis commenced his position on 1 August 1995, for a period of six months. His task will be to work on further developing a proposal that was submitted to the Australian Space Office during July. Since then, the Australian Space Office has announced a contribution of \$300K towards the funding of the feasibility study. Partners in the ARIES consortium are CSIRO, ACRES, AUSPACE, Earth Resource Mapping, Geoimage and Technical & Field Surveys.

During Dennis' absence, Jim Mollison will act as the Product Manager and ACRES Update editor.

ERS-1 and ERS-2 operations after the ERS-2 commissioning phase

The ERS-2 commissioning phase will terminate at the end of October 1995. From then on, the two satellites will be kept on their current orbits, with ERS-2 following ERS-1 at a one day distance, until further notice (eg. one satellite might in future be moved to reach an 8 days' shift). Therefore, no new phase will be defined for the time being.

The orbit maintenance manoeuvres will ensure ground tracks within the 1 km range relative to the nominal track, and 50 to 600 meters between the two satellites, in order to improve opportunities for interferometric applications.

AUSLIG General Manager John Kent recently signed an extension to the Memorandum of Understanding with ESA (European Space Agency) which will allow ACRES and TERSS to continue acquiring and processing SAR data from the ERS-1 and ERS-2 satellites.

Subsequent to this the Australian ground stations were invited by ESA to participate in a major campaign to acquire interferometric SAR data over the whole continent. ACRES management and the TERSS Board have both agreed to cooperate in the campaign.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ERS-1 & 2 CAN BE OBTAINED:

- Online through Internet where all the evolution of the ERS-1 and ERS-2 missions is reported and constantly updated.
Enter the URL: <http://services.esrin.esa.it>
- By e-mail, phone, or fax through the ERS Helpdesk at ESRIN Italy:
e-mail: helpdesk@ers.esrinvas.esrin.esa.it
Tel: +39 6 941 80 600
Fax: +39 6 941 80 510

New contractor for the operations and maintenance of ACRES – British Aerospace Australia

Following an open tender process by AUSLIG, British Aerospace Australia (BAeA) has taken over from Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) as the operations and maintenance contractor at ACRES. The contractor has day-to-day responsibility for most facets of ACRES operations and employs 36 of ACRES' 43 staff. The new arrangements took effect on 1 July 1995.

British Aerospace Australia (BAeA) is one of the country's leading defence and aerospace companies with particular expertise in software and electronic systems, value added manufacturing, space, and communications.

The origin of BAeA dates back to the early 1950s when British companies established themselves in Australia to support the weapons trials at Woomera.

BAeA employs more than 1000 people throughout Australia and Saudi Arabia, has sales of A\$100 million, earns A\$45 million in exports and has contracts and commitments with more than 200 companies in Australia. BAeA is part of the worldwide British Aerospace group of Companies. With more than 125,000 employees, British Aerospace plc is Britain's largest manufacturing group and one of the world's largest aerospace organisations.

The Company's Head Office is based at Technology Park in South Australia but has contractual responsibilities at a series of satellite locations throughout Australia. This includes the Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex at Tidbinbilla and the Laser Ranging Station Moblas 5 at Yarragdee in Western Australia.



ACRES' NEW CONTRACT AND BUSINESS MANAGER, DONNA SCOTT, AT HER NEW DESK.

BAeA recognises that fundamental to establishing a successful and efficient operation is the creation of an environment in which all employees are able to contribute and operate as part of a team. It believes that the human resource is as valuable as the technological aspect of its operations.

This commitment is demonstrated by BAeA's open style of communications with its employees over a period of 40 years, and its low levels of employee turnover and absenteeism throughout the numerous contracts held by BAeA.

With the capabilities and reputation in industrial relations, design, development, manufacture, and support systems, BAeA is well prepared to work with AUSLIG in meeting the demands of a rapidly developing remote sensing business.

The changeover of the ACRES contract from CSC to BAeA involved no staff changes apart from that of the Contract Manager. ACRES therefore bids farewell to David Crago who will return to CSC, and thank him for his contribution towards the management of ACRES. We also wish to welcome Donna Scott of BAeA as the new Contract Manager.

Donna has a Science degree with managerial experience in the finance industry and considerable exposure to industrial relation issues. She has been with BAeA since September 1990 and we wish her all the best in her new role.

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Dr Habibie's visit is another manifestation of the excellent relationship enjoyed between ACRES and its Indonesian counterparts, and can only serve to raise the profile of remote sensing in both countries. During Dr Habibie's visit to Australia, it was announced that the Australian Government had approved funding for stage two of the ACRES/LAPAN ground station cooperation project. This stage of the project, which will commence in earnest in February 1996, has the aim of achieving catalogue interoperability between the two stations.

ACRES recruitment and training

ACRES bids farewell to a few staff members who have left us since the last ACRES Update edition. They are Anil Rai (Programmer), Lionel Hutchison (Computer Operator) and Charles Stephens (Dispatch).

At the same time, the demand for satellite data has increased dramatically.

Therefore in an effort to maintain the best service for our clients and keep the quality standard high, ACRES has recruited a number of new staff.

They are Leneese McFarlane, Brian McDonald, Quynh Pham and Gypsy Bhalla who commenced on 26 July in computer operations. Chris De La Rue commenced 24 July as the new dispatch clerk. They join Jerri Cody and Kenji Walter (Computer Operations) and Vicky Williams (Photographic Laboratory) who started earlier this year.

Our new recruits have commenced an intensive training program designed to give them the skills and confidence to operate the various systems in use at ACRES. There is much to learn in operating systems such as MQS (Microimage Quicklook System) and GICS (Geocoded Image Correction System).

MQS is for cataloguing, cloud assessment and microfiche production of data from LANDSAT, SPOT, NOAA and JERS satellites. GICS is ACRES prime digital satellite imagery production system. It is able to produce data products with levels of correction ranging from 'raw' to 'precision geocoded with DTM', and photographic products considered worldwide to be among the best.

Training is also being conducted for operation of the AETHERS processor for ERS digital and photographic products.

ACRES is also well advanced in its program of transferring its extensive archive of digital data from magnetic media to optical tape media. (The optical tapes have a much longer life.) The additional staff will keep this program moving so that our valuable archive is preserved.

ACRES also welcomes Alice Lee who joins us a User Support Programmer. Alice will mainly be involved in maintenance support of our new manufacturing software MANMAN/X. (See article in this edition.)



DONNA SCOTT WITH TWO OF ACRES' NEW COMPUTER OPERATORS, BRIAN McDONALD AND LENESE MCFARLANE.



ACRES' NEW USER SUPPORT PROGRAMMER, ALICE LEE (RIGHT), AT WORK ON MANMAN/X WITH JENNY WEISSEL.

ACRES/AUSLIG to upgrade its WWW site

Jenny Weissel

Internet WWW users have been using AUSLIG's WWW information pages for the past year. The present pages were developed by AUSLIG's Geodesy Unit with additions by the PIPC (Public Interest Policy and Coordination) group. Before November 1995, there had been no information on ACRES and its products and services.

This is changing, with the development of a larger and more comprehensive AUSLIG information set which will include full coverage of ACRES, its products, services and distribution network. From the ACRES pages, users will be able to link to the proposed ACRES Digital on-line Catalogue - due to become operational early next year. In addition, users will also find links to other AUSLIG pages and to other WWW sites.

With the growth of the Internet, electronic publishing of information is the trend for the future. ACRES' customers, distributors and information users will be able to access ACRES' information via the Internet quickly and conveniently.

ACRES' information will start to be available on AUSLIG's WWW home page by November 1995, along with additional AUSLIG information. Further additions of information will continually occur into the new year.

AUSLIG's WWW address is: <http://www.auslig.gov.au>

We welcome your suggestions and opinions as to what should be in ACRES' WWW pages. Please make suggestions to:

Jenny Weissel

Tel: (06) 201 4108

Fax: (06) 251 6326

e-mail: weissel@auslig.gov.au

ACRES Sales Results

ACRES total gross sales for the 1994/95 financial year reached a record \$3 652 229. This figure represents a 43% increase from the previous financial year and highlights the strong growth in the remote sensing market.

Total Gross Sales

Year	\$Mill
1993/94	2.56
1994/95	3.65

The most outstanding growth area was Landsat TM digital data acquired by ACRES which increased by \$422 000 since the previous year. Consequently, ACRES Landsat TM sales accounted for 52% of the total sales. SPOT Panchromatic digital data sales also increased dramatically. A large proportion of this increase was due to the use of the data in AUSLIG's National Mapping Program.

Summary of Gross Sales 1994/95 Financial Year

	\$ Sales	Percent of Total
LANDSAT		
ACRES MSS	101 078	3
ACRES TM	1 895 376	52
EOSAT (Mainly TM)	364 727	10
NRCT - Thailand (TM)	54 336	2
EROS (MSS)	1 957	-
TOTAL	2 417 474	
SPOT		
Panchromatic	774 024	21
Multispectral (XS)	175 629	5
TOTAL	949 653	
OTHER		
ERS SAR	25 890	1
NOAA AVHRR	6 800	-
Image Writing	184 340	5
Microfiche Catalogue	7 350	-
Royalties	39 523	1
Misc	19 979	-

In relation to product media, the proportion of ACRES digital data and photographic data sold was 83% and 17% respectively. These figures confirm the continued trend towards digital data. Exabytes accounted for 85% of the value of all digital data.

ACRES/AUSLIG are very pleased with the sales results and congratulate our distributors on a job well done.

AUSLIG's Joint Agency Data Agreement (JADA)

Recently a new policy was announced by AUSLIG regarding the sale of satellite imagery to multiple users within State and/or Commonwealth Government.

The new policy is called the Joint Agency Data Agreement, or "JADA" for short, and applies to Landsat digital data only.

Its purpose is to encourage the use of satellite data for large public interest inter-governmental programs, with flow-on benefits of increasing the use of satellite data in general.

A JADA may apply when two or more government agencies wish to purchase the same satellite data (ie 'shared areas') for public interest projects. For the JADA to be approved, the total RRP of a single copy of the shared areas must be at least \$100 000.

A JADA may only be offered to 'on budget' Commonwealth and/or State Government departments and agencies using the data for public interest projects.

Of course, AUSLIG needs to approve all JADAs before orders are placed. Members of the JADA must identify a Lead Agency from their group. The Lead Agency should normally place all orders and make all payments. All data requirements need to be specified before approval can be given.

Data from a JADA may be sold to a Lead Agency by one of AUSLIG's satellite data distributors, or directly by AUSLIG.

The list price of data for a JADA will be:

- Normal RRP for the first data set; plus
- 20% of RRP for each additional copy of a shared area.

For more information, please contact one of ACRES Account Managers at AUSLIG's National Data Centre. Tel: (06) 201 4201.

ACRES On-line Digital Catalogue

It is with great pleasure that ACRES announces the signing of the contract to develop the ACRES On-line Digital Catalogue, incorporating a digital 'quick look' facility. Aspect Computing P/L of Adelaide has been awarded the contract, in conjunction with CORE Software Technology of the USA and EarthWare Systems of Canberra. The contract will involve Aspect developing PC-based client viewer software to complement the existing CORE catalogue system.

The aims of the catalogue are to:

- improve on-line search facilities for distributors;
- make information on remote sensing more widely accessible;
- improve search facilities for major customers;
- improve interfaces with international catalogue systems; and
- replace the current microfiche cataloguing system.

The major features of the new system will include:

- a central system accessed through the existing telecommunications network;
- access through common interfaces such as Internet and WWW;
- interactive client viewing of images with textual, image enhancement and mapping tools built in;
- availability of meta-data and 'quick look' images within days of acquisition; and
- on-line auxiliary data such as format documents and price lists.

The system will be declared operational and available to all users by the end of February 1996. It will include Landsat and SPOT data acquired since July 1995. Incorporation of data from ACRES historical archive will substantially be complete within a further 6 months.

After implementation, Aspect Computing and CORE Software Technology will be in a position to further enhance the catalogue system and the client viewer software in line with recommendations from ACRES distributors and customers.

Internet will be the recommended standard means of access, especially if you anticipate being a regular user. However other access options will be available. Access will be free of charge to all users until at least 30th June 1996. At that time this policy will be reviewed.

Karl Nissen is the ACRES Project Manager for the On-line Digital Catalogue. Please contact him if you would like further information regarding suitable Internet connections or any other related matter:

Karl Nissen
Tel: (06) 201 4113
e-mail: k.nissen@auslig.gov.au

ACRES looks forward to delivering this new service to you.

Microfiche

Production of the microfiche catalogue will continue until 31 March 1996. After this date it will no longer be available. All customers and distributors who currently subscribe to our microfiche will receive fiche until this date at no extra charge. Hence there will be about a four to six week overlap of the microfiche and the on-line digital catalogue. This will help you during the process of organising access to the new On-line Digital Catalogue. The project team for the new catalogue will keep microfiche users informed of the requirements to access the system.

ACRES' Confirmation Orders

A Confirmation Order is received by customers after placing their order with ACRES, and it forms an important and integral part of ACRES' quality procedures.

It is generated automatically by the production system following the input of a customer Order and details the specifications of the product to be generated for that customer. The Confirmation Order provides a check on ACRES interpretation of that customer's order and the chance to correct any typographical errors. By providing a copy of the Confirmation Order to the customer, the accuracy of the order details held by the production system can be checked.

It provides the Customer with an independent opportunity to ensure that the order details held by the production system are correct.

The customer Order and ACRES' Confirmation Order constitute our contract with the customer, and provided ACRES fulfils the contract as specified on the Confirmation Order ACRES has met its side of the contract and the responsibility for correcting any mistakes must be borne by the customer.

Please use the Confirmation Order as an independent check on what you have ordered. If there is any concern that your order might not be correct, please contact Customer Services before the product is generated.