ALASKA SATELLITE FACILITY USER BULLETIN VOL. 9, NO. 5
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CONTENTS:

1. RADARSAT-1 Satellite in Modified Orbit

As stated in a previous notice (included below), the Radarsat-1 satellite is currently in a modified orbit. Maneuvers are planned to return the spacecraft to its nominal 24-day repeat cycle orbit by the end of this month. All Radarsat-1 data acquired between April 25 and June 1, 2004, will not be appropriate for interferometry. However, the data can still be processed successfully for applications requiring backscatter images.

Please note that there is some cross-track drift occurring that alters the area
covered. If you have any concerns or questions on your particular data acquisitions, feel free to contact ASF User Services.

For users acquiring data downlinked into foreign ground stations during this transition time, ASF is currently negotiating transcription cost obligations for the United States. We would like to prevent you from incurring costs for data that will not meet your requirements. The User Services Office will strive to keep you informed with respect to satellite and data issues.

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RADARSAT-1 Orbit Adjustment Notification

On Sunday April 25th, a routine manoeuvre to adjust the orbit of RADARSAT-1 resulted in a slight modification of the nominal orbit of a 24-day repeat cycle. Since that event, the Canadian Space Agency, in consultation with its program partners, has been looking at several scenarios to correct the situation. In the end, in the interest of the program, it has been decided that an orbit manoeuvre will be implemented shortly to get back to the nominal orbit. To proceed with this manoeuvre, a 48-hour long total payload outage will be required beginning at 17-MAY-04 at 19:00 UTC. With this manoeuvre the nominal orbit and ground track would be restored by the end of

the month.

In the mean time, users may be seeing a difference in the location of the actual acquired data compared with that ordered, especially in the cross-track direction. This situation should be corrected shortly for the interim period by the release to the order desks of a new version of the Swath Planning Application (SPA) tool that will include a proper correction.

The Canadian Space Agency and its program partners are keeping their clients informed and working together to ensure that the impact on clients is minimized during the interim period.

Dr. Satish Srivastava
Operations Planning Manager
Satellite Operations
Canadian Space Agency

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2. ASF Newsletter

ASF recently published the second issue of the "News & Notes," the new ASF hardcopy newsletter. Both issues of this newsletter may be viewed from the ASF home page (www.asf.alaska.edu). Users are invited to contribute feature articles to this quarterly newsletter, highlighting some aspect of their research results obtained with SAR data received from ASF. For more details about story length and submission deadlines, contact User Services at 907-474-6166 or <uso@asf.alaska.edu>. We'd love to hear from you.

Principle investigators of approved ASF projects automatically receive a copy of the newsletter. Anyone else interested in receiving the newsletter should contact ASF User Services via email (uso@asf.alaska.edu) to subscribe. Please include your name and mailing address in the email. If you are an ASF PI and you have not received your copy of the newsletter, please contact ASF User Services to update your contact information.

3. DAR Reminder from ASF Acquisition Planning

DAR Reminder from ASF Acquisition Planning

Plan ahead! New data acquisition requests (DARs) for RADARSAT should be submitted 9-10 weeks in advance of the acquisition start date. Meeting this deadline improves the scheduling success rate at CSA. ERS-2 DARs should be submitted a minimum of 6-7 weeks prior to the desired start date.

All new data acquisitions can be requested via the ASF DARnet site (http://darnet.asf.alaska.edu:2300/).

New DARs for acquisitions beginning in Cycle 133 should be submitted for consideration by May 29, 2004. DARs submitted after this date will be handled on a best effort basis.

Dates to remember:

Cycle 128: April 8, 2004 - May 2, 2004
Cycle 129: May 2, 2004 - May 26, 2004
Cycle 130: May 26, 2004 - June 19, 2004
Cycle 131: June 19, 2004 - July 13, 2004
Cycle 132: July 13, 2004 - August 6, 2004
Cycle 133: August 6, 2004 - August 30, 2004 (DAR Submission deadline - May 29, 2004)
Cycle 134: August 30, 2004 - September 23, 2004 (DAR Submission deadline - June 22, 2004)

4. ASF Attending ASPRS

Michelle Harbin and Vicky Wolf from ASF User Services will be attending the ASPRS conference in Denver in support of the NASA Earth Science Enterprise Booth. The booth will be in space 912 in the exhibit hall. Please feel free to stop by and say hello and ask questions.

5. Upcoming Events

May 23-28, 2004 - American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Annual Conference, Denver, Co, http://www.asprs.org/denver2004/index.html
September 6-10, 2004 - ENVISAT and ERS Symposium, Salzburg, Austria, http://earth.esa.int/salzburg04/
September 20-24, 2004 - International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS), Anchorage, AK, http://www.ewh.ieee.org/soc/grss/igarss.html

6. On-line Bibliography of SAR Related Papers

ASF has developed a comprehensive bibliography of SAR application materials that were published between January 1999 and December 2001. The ASF Bibliographic Database (http://asfbd.asf.alaska.edu/) can be searched by author, journal, subject, and/or title words. Work is ongoing to keep the bibliography up-to-date and to archive older publications.

Reminder: Per the terms outlined in the ASF Research Agreement, NASA requires that approved users submit three copies of all ASF supported research publications and reprints to the ASF User Services Office. All submissions will be indexed and added to the SAR applications bibliography.

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