Public Law 98-365
98th Congress

An Act

To establish a system to promote the use of land remote-sensing satellite data, and for other purposes.

July 17, 1984
[H.R. 5155]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Land Remote-Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984".

Land Remote-Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984.
Communications and telecommunications.
15 USC 4201 note.

TITLE I—DECLARATION OF FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND POLICIES

FINDINGS

SEC. 101. The Congress finds and declares that—

Congress.
15 USC 4201.

(1) the continuous civilian collection and utilization of land remote-sensing data from space are of major benefit in managing the Earth's natural resources and in planning and conducting many other activities of economic importance;

(2) the Federal Government's experimental Landsat system has established the United States as the world leader in land remote-sensing technology;

Landsat system.

(3) the national interest of the United States lies in maintaining international leadership in civil remote sensing and in broadly promoting the beneficial use of remote-sensing data;

(4) land remote sensing by the Government or private parties of the United States affects international commitments and policies and national security concerns of the United States;

Defense and national security.

(5) the broadest and most beneficial use of land remote-sensing data will result from maintaining a policy of nondiscriminatory access to data;

(6) competitive, market-driven private sector involvement in land remote sensing is in the national interest of the United States;

(7) use of land remote-sensing data has been inhibited by slow market development and by the lack of assurance of data continuity;

(8) the private sector, and in particular the "value-added" industry, is best suited to develop land remote-sensing data markets;

(9) there is doubt that the private sector alone can currently develop a total land remote-sensing system because of the high risk and large capital expenditure involved;

(10) cooperation between the Federal Government and private industry can help assure both data continuity and United States leadership;

(11) the time is now appropriate to initiate such cooperation with phased transition to a fully commercial system;

(12) such cooperation should be structured to involve the minimum practicable amount of support and regulation by the

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Federal Government and the maximum practicable amount of competition by the private sector, while assuring continuous availability to the Federal Government of land remote-sensing data;

(13) certain Government oversight must be maintained to assure that private sector activities are in the national interest and that the international commitments and policies of the United States are honored; and

(14) there is no compelling reason to commercialize meteorological satellites at this time.

PURPOSES

15 USC 4202.

SEC. 102. The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) guide the Federal Government in achieving proper involvement of the private sector by providing a framework for phased commercialization of land remote sensing and by assuring continuous data availability to the Federal Government;

Defense and national security.

(2) maintain the United States worldwide leadership in civil remote sensing, preserve its national security, and fulfill its international obligations;

(3) minimize the duration and amount of further Federal investment necessary to assure data continuity while achieving commercialization of civil land remote sensing;

(4) provide for a comprehensive civilian program of research, development, and demonstration to enhance both the United States capabilities for remote sensing from space and the application and utilization of such capabilities; and

(5) prohibit commercialization of meteorological satellites at this time.

POLICIES

15 USC 4203.

SEC. 103. (a) It shall be the policy of the United States to preserve its right to acquire and disseminate unenhanced remote-sensing data.

(b) It shall be the policy of the United States that civilian unenhanced remote-sensing data be made available to all potential users on a nondiscriminatory basis and in a manner consistent with applicable antitrust laws.

Defense and national security.

(c) It shall be the policy of the United States both to commercialize those remote-sensing space systems that properly lend themselves to private sector operation and to avoid competition by the Government with such commercial operations, while continuing to preserve our national security, to honor our international obligations, and to retain in the Government those remote-sensing functions that are essentially of a public service nature.

DEFINITIONS

15 USC 4204.

SEC. 104. For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "Landsat system" means Landsats 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and any related ground equipment, systems, and facilities, and any successor civil land remote-sensing space systems operated by the United States Government prior to the commencement of the six-year period described in title III.

(2) The term "Secretary" means the Secretarv of Commerce.

(3)(A) The term "nondiscriminatory basis" means without preference, bias, or any other special arrangement (except on the basis of national security concerns pursuant to section 607) regarding delivery, format, financing, or technical considerations which would favor one buyer or class of buyers over another.

(B) The sale of data is made on a nondiscriminatory basis only if (i) any offer to sell or deliver data is published in advance in such manner as will ensure that the offer is equally available to all prospective buyers; (ii) the system operator has not established or changed any price, policy, procedure, or other term or condition in a manner which gives one buyer or class of buyer de facto favored access to data; (iii) the system operator does not make unenhanced data available to any purchaser on an exclusive basis; and (iv) in a case where a system operator offers volume discounts, such discounts are no greater than the demonstrable reductions in the cost of volume sales. The sale of data on a nondiscriminatory basis does not preclude the system operator from offering discounts other than volume discounts to the extent that such discounts are consistent with the provisions of this paragraph.

(C) The sale of data on a nondiscriminatory basis does not require (i) that a system operator disclose names of buyers or their purchases; (ii) that a system operator maintain all, or any particular subset of, data in a working inventory; or (iii) that a system operator expend equal effort in developing all segments of a market.

(4) The term "unenhanced data" means unprocessed or minimally processed signals or film products collected from civil remote-sensing space systems. Such minimal processing may include rectification of distortions, registration with respect to features of the Earth, and calibration of spectral response. Such minimal processing does not include conclusions, manipulations, or calculations derived from such signals or film products or combination of the signals or film products with other data or information.

(5) The term "system operator" means a contractor under title II or title III or a license holder under title IV.

TITLE II—OPERATION AND DATA MARKETING OF LANDSAT SYSTEM

OPERATION

SEC. 201. (a) The Secretary shall be responsible for— 15 USC 4211.

(1) the Landsat system, including the orbit, operation, and disposition of Landsats 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; and

(2) provision of data to foreign ground stations under the terms of agreements between the United States Government and nations that operate such ground stations which are in force on the date of commencement of the contract awarded pursuant to this title.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not affect the Secretary's authority to contract for the operation of part or all of the Landsat system, so long as the United States Government retains—

(1) ownership of such system;

(2) ownership of the unenhanced data; and

(3) authority to make decisions concerning operation of the system.

CONTRACT FOR MARKETING OF UNENHANCED DATA

15 USC 4212.

SEC. 202. (a) In accordance with the requirements of this title, the Secretary, by means of a competitive process and to the extent provided in advance by appropriation Acts, shall contract with a United States private sector party (as defined by the Secretary) for the marketing of unenhanced data collected by the Landsat system. Any such contract—

(1) shall provide that the contractor set the prices of unenhanced data;

(2) may provide for financial arrangements between the Secretary and the contractor including fees for operating the system, payments by the contractor as an initial fee or as a percentage of sales receipts, or other such considerations;

(3) shall provide that the contractor will offer to sell and deliver unenhanced data to all potential buyers on a nondiscriminatory basis;

(4) shall provide that the contractor pay to the United States Government the full purchase price of any unenhanced data that the contractor elects to utilize for purposes other than sale;

(5) shall be entered into by the Secretary only if the Secretary has determined that such contract is likely to result in net cost savings for the United States Government; and

(6) may be reawarded competitively after the practical demise of the space segment of the Landsat system, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) Any contract authorized by subsection (a) may specify that the contractor use, and, at his own expense, maintain, repair, or modify, such elements of the Landsat system as the contractor finds necessary for commercial operations.

Congress.

(c) Any decision or proposed decision by the Secretary to enter into any such contract shall be transmitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives for their review. No such decision or proposed decision shall be implemented unless (A) a period of thirty calendar days has passed after the receipt by each such committee of such transmittal, or (B) each such committee before the expiration of such period has agreed to transmit and has transmitted to the Secretary written notice to the effect that such committee has no objection to the decision or proposed decision. As part of the transmittal, the Secretary shall include information on the terms of the contract described in subsection (a).

(d) In defining "United States private sector party" for purposes of this Act, the Secretary may take into account the citizenship of key personnel, location of assets, foreign ownership, control, influence, and other such factors.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR CONTRACT

15 USC 4213.

SEC. 203. (a) The Secretary shall, as part of the advertisement for the competition for the contract authorized by section 202, identify and publish the international obligations, national security concerns (with appropriate protection of sensitive information), domestic

legal considerations, and any other standards or conditions which a private contractor shall be required to meet.

(b) In selecting a contractor under this title, the Secretary shall consider—

(1) ability to market aggressively unenhanced data;

(2) the best overall financial return to the Government, including the potential cost savings to the Government that are likely to result from the contract;

(3) ability to meet the obligations, concerns, considerations, standards, and conditions identified under subsection (a);

(4) technical competence, including the ability to assure continuous and timely delivery of data from the Landsat system;

(5) ability to effect a smooth transition with the contractor selected under title III; and

(6) such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate and relevant.

(c) If, as a result of the competitive process required by section 202(a), the Secretary receives no proposal which is acceptable under the provisions of this title, the Secretary shall so certify and fully report such finding to the Congress. As soon as practicable but not later than thirty days after so certifying and reporting, the Secretary shall reopen the competitive process. The period for the subsequent competitive process shall not exceed one hundred and twenty days. If, after such subsequent competitive process, the Secretary receives no proposal which is acceptable under the provisions of this title, the Secretary shall so certify and fully report such finding to the Congress. In the event that no acceptable proposal is received, the Secretary shall continue to market data from the Landsat system. Report.

(d) A contract awarded under section 202 may, in the discretion of the Secretary, be combined with the contract required by title III, pursuant to section 304(b).

SALE OF DATA

SEC. 204. (a) After the date of the commencement of the contract described in section 202(a), the contractor shall be entitled to revenues from sales of copies of data from the Landsat system, subject to the conditions specified in sections 601 and 602. 15 USC 4214.

(b) The contractor may continue to market data previously generated by the Landsat system after the demise of the space segment of that system.

FOREIGN GROUND STATIONS

SEC. 205. (a) The contract under this title shall provide that the contractor shall act as the agent of the Secretary by continuing to supply unenhanced data to foreign ground stations for the life, and according to the terms, of those agreements between the United States Government and such foreign ground stations that are in force on the date of the commencement of the contract. 15 USC 4215.

(b) Upon the expiration of such agreements, or in the case of foreign ground stations that have no agreement with the United States on the date of commencement of the contract, the contract shall provide—

(1) that unenhanced data from the Landsat system shall be made available to foreign ground stations only by the contractor; and

(2) that such data shall be made available on a nondiscriminatory basis.

TITLE III—PROVISION OF DATA CONTINUITY AFTER THE LANDSAT SYSTEM

PURPOSES AND DEFINITION

15 USC 4221.

SEC. 301. (a) It is the purpose of this title—

(1) to provide, in an orderly manner and with minimal risk, for a transition from Government operation to private, commercial operation of civil land remote-sensing systems; and

(2) to provide data continuity for six years after the practical demise of the space segment of the Landsat system.

(b) For purposes of this title, the term "data continuity" means the continued availability of unenhanced data—

(1) including data which are from the point of view of a data user—

(A) functionally equivalent to the multispectral data generated by the Landsat 1 and 2 satellites; and

(B) compatible with such data and with equipment used to receive and process such data; and

(2) at an annual volume at least equal to the Federal usage during fiscal year 1983.

(c) Data continuity may be provided using whatever technologies are available.

DATA CONTINUITY AND AVAILABILITY

Contracts with U.S.
15 USC 4222.

SEC. 302. The Secretary shall solicit proposals from United States private sector parties (as defined by the Secretary pursuant to section 202) for a contract for the development and operation of a remote-sensing space system capable of providing data continuity for a period of six years and for marketing unenhanced data in accordance with the provisions of sections 601 and 602. Such proposals, at a minimum, shall specify—

(1) the quantities and qualities of unenhanced data expected from the system;

(2) the projected date upon which operations could begin;

(3) the number of satellites to be constructed and their expected lifetimes;

(4) any need for Federal funding to develop the system;

(5) any percentage of sales receipts or other returns offered to the Federal Government;

(6) plans for expanding the market for land remote-sensing data; and

(7) the proposed procedures for meeting the national security concerns and international obligations of the United States in accordance with section 607.

AWARDING OF THE CONTRACT

15 USC 4223.

SEC. 303. (a)(1) In accordance with the requirements of this title, the Secretary shall evaluate the proposals described in section 302 and, by means of a competitive process and to the extent provided in

advance by appropriation Acts, shall contract with the United States private sector party for the capability of providing data continuity for a period of six years and for marketing unenhanced data.

(2) Before commencing space operations the contractor shall obtain a license under title IV.

(b) As part of the evaluation described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall analyze the expected outcome of each proposal in terms of—

(1) the net cost to the Federal Government of developing the recommended system;

(2) the technical competence and financial condition of the contractor;

(3) the availability of such data after the expected termination of the Landsat system;

(4) the quantities and qualities of data to be generated by the recommended system;

(5) the contractor's ability to supplement the requirement for data continuity by adding, at the contractor's expense, remote-sensing capabilities which maintain United States leadership in remote sensing;

(6) the potential to expand the market for data;

(7) expected returns to the Federal Government based on any percentage of data sales or other such financial consideration offered to the Federal Government in accordance with section 305;

(8) the commercial viability of the proposal;

(9) the proposed procedures for satisfying the national security concerns and international obligations of the United States;

(10) the contractor's ability to effect a smooth transition with any contractor selected under title II; and

(11) such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate and relevant.

(c) Any decision or proposed decision by the Secretary to enter into any such contract shall be transmitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives for their review. No such decision or proposed decision shall be implemented unless (1) a period of thirty calendar days has passed after the receipt by each such committee of such transmittal, or (2) each such committee before the expiration of such period has agreed to transmit and has transmitted to the Secretary written notice to the effect that such committee has no objection to the decision or proposed decision. As part of the transmittal, the Secretary shall include the information specified in subsection (a). Congress.

(d) If, as a result of the competitive process required by this section, the Secretary receives no proposal which is acceptable under the provisions of this title, the Secretary shall so certify and fully report such finding to the Congress. As soon as practicable but not later than thirty days after so certifying and reporting, the Secretary shall reopen the competitive process. The period for the subsequent competitive process shall not exceed one hundred and eighty days. If, after such subsequent competitive process, the Secretary receives no proposal which is acceptable under the provisions of this title, the Secretary shall so certify and fully report such finding to the Congress. Not earlier than ninety days after such certification and report, the Secretary may assure data continuity by procure- Report.

ment and operation by the Federal Government of the necessary systems, to the extent provided in advance by appropriation Acts.

TERMS OF CONTRACT

15 USC 4224.

SEC. 304. (a) Any contract entered into pursuant to this title—

(1) shall be entered into as soon as practicable, allowing for the competitive procurement process required by this title;

(2) shall, in accordance with criteria determined and published by the Secretary, reasonably assure data continuity for a period of six years, beginning as soon as practicable in order to minimize any interruption of data availability;

(3) shall provide that the contractor will offer to sell and deliver unenhanced data to all potential buyers on a nondiscriminatory basis;

(4) shall not provide a guarantee of data purchases from the contractor by the Federal Government;

(5) may provide that the contractor utilize, on a space-available basis, a civilian United States Government satellite or vehicle as a platform for a civil land remote-sensing space system, if—

(A) the contractor agrees to reimburse the Government immediately for all related costs incurred with respect to such utilization, including a reasonable and proportionate share of fixed, platform, data transmission, and launch costs; and

(B) such utilization would not interfere with or otherwise compromise intended civilian Government missions, as determined by the agency responsible for the civilian platform; and

(6) may provide financial support by the United States Government, for a portion of the capital costs required to provide data continuity for a period of six years, in the form of loans, loan guarantees, or payments pursuant to section 305 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 255).

(b)(1) Without regard to whether any contract entered into under this title is combined with a contract under title II, the Secretary shall promptly determine whether the contract entered into under this title reasonably effectuates the purposes and policies of title II. Such determination shall be submitted to the President and the Congress, together with a full statement of the basis for such determination.

(2) If the Secretary determines that such contract does not reasonably effectuate the requirements of title II, the Secretary shall promptly carry out the provisions of such title to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

MARKETING

15 USC 4225.

SEC. 305. (a) In order to promote aggressive marketing of land remote-sensing data, any contract entered into pursuant to this title may provide that the percentage of sales paid by the contractor to the Federal Government shall decrease according to stipulated increases in sales levels.

(b) After the six-year period described in section 304(a)(2), the contractor may continue to sell data. If licensed under title IV, the

contractor may continue to operate a civil remote-sensing space system.

REPORT

SEC. 306. Two years after the date of the commencement of the six-year period described in section 304(a)(2), the Secretary shall report to the President and to the Congress on the progress of the transition to fully private financing, ownership, and operation of remote-sensing space systems, together with any recommendations for actions, including actions necessary to ensure United States leadership in civilian land remote sensing from space. 15 USC 4226.

TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY

SEC. 307. The authority granted to the Secretary by this title shall terminate ten years after the date of enactment of this Act. 15 USC 4227.

TITLE IV—LICENSING OF PRIVATE REMOTE-SENSING SPACE SYSTEMS

GENERAL AUTHORITY

SEC. 401. (a)(1) In consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, the Secretary is authorized to license private sector parties to operate private remote-sensing space systems for such period as the Secretary may specify and in accordance with the provisions of this title. 15 USC 4241.

(2) In the case of a private space system that is used for remote sensing and other purposes, the authority of the Secretary under this title shall be limited only to the remote-sensing operations of such space system.

(b) No license shall be granted by the Secretary unless the Secretary determines in writing that the applicant will comply with the requirements of this Act, any regulations issued pursuant to this Act, and any applicable international obligations and national security concerns of the United States.

(c) The Secretary shall review any application and make a determination thereon within one hundred and twenty days of the receipt of such application. If final action has not occurred within such time, the Secretary shall inform the applicant of any pending issues and of actions required to resolve them.

(d) The Secretary shall not deny such license in order to protect any existing licensee from competition.

CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

SEC. 402. (a) No person who is subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States may, directly or through any subsidiary or affiliate, operate any private remote-sensing space system without a license pursuant to section 401. 15 USC 4242.

(b) Any license issued pursuant to this title shall specify, at a minimum, that the licensee shall comply with all of the requirements of this Act and shall—

(1) operate the system in such manner as to preserve and promote the national security of the United States and to observe and implement the international obligations of the United States in accordance with section 607; Defense and national security.

(2) make unenhanced data available to all potential users on a nondiscriminatory basis;

(3) upon termination of operations under the license, make disposition of any satellites in space in a manner satisfactory to the President;

(4) promptly make available all unenhanced data which the Secretary may request pursuant to section 602;

(5) furnish the Secretary with complete orbit and data collection characteristics of the system, obtain advance approval of any intended deviation from such characteristics, and inform the Secretary immediately of any unintended deviation;

(6) notify the Secretary of any agreement the licensee intends to enter with a foreign nation, entity, or consortium involving foreign nations or entities;

(7) permit the inspection by the Secretary of the licensee's equipment, facilities, and financial records;

(8) surrender the license and terminate operations upon notification by the Secretary pursuant to section 403(a)(1); and

(9)(A) notify the Secretary of any "value added" activities (as defined by the Secretary by regulation) that will be conducted by the licensee or by a subsidiary or affiliate; and

(B) if such activities are to be conducted, provide the Secretary with a plan for compliance with the provisions of this Act concerning nondiscriminatory access.

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY

15 USC 4243.

SEC. 403. (a) In order to carry out the responsibilities specified in this title, the Secretary may—

(1) grant, terminate, modify, condition, transfer, or suspend licenses under this title, and upon notification of the licensee may terminate licensed operations on an immediate basis, if the Secretary determines that the licensee has substantially failed to comply with any provision of this Act, with any regulation issued under this Act, with any terms, conditions, or restrictions of such license, or with any international obligations or national security concerns of the United States;

(2) inspect the equipment, facilities, or financial records of any licensee under this title;

(3) provide penalties for noncompliance with the requirements of licenses or regulations issued under this title, including civil penalties not to exceed $10,000 (each day of operation in violation of such licenses or regulations constituting a separate violation);

(4) compromise, modify, or remit any such civil penalty;

(5) issue subpenas for any materials, documents, or records, or for the attendance and testimony of witnesses for the purpose of conducting a hearing under this section;

(6) seize any object, record, or report where there is probable cause to believe that such object, record, or report was used, is being used, or is likely to be used in violation of this Act or the requirements of a license or regulation issued thereunder; and

(7) make investigations and inquiries and administer to or take from any person an oath, affirmation, or affidavit concerning any matter relating to the enforcement of this Act.

(b) Any applicant or licensee who makes a timely request for review of an adverse action pursuant to subsection (a)(1), (a)(3), or

(a)(6) shall be entitled to adjudication by the Secretary on the record after an opportunity for an agency hearing with respect to such adverse action. Any final action by the Secretary under this subsection shall be subject to judicial review under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code. 5 USC 701 *et seq.*

REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY

SEC. 404. The Secretary may issue regulations to carry out the provisions of this title. Such regulations shall be promulgated only after public notice and comment in accordance with the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code. 15 USC 4244.

AGENCY ACTIVITIES

SEC. 405. (a) A private sector party may apply for a license to operate a private remote-sensing space system which utilizes, on a space-available basis, a civilian United States Government satellite or vehicle as a platform for such system. The Secretary, pursuant to the authorities of this title, may license such system if it meets all conditions of this title and— 15 USC 4245.

(1) the system operator agrees to reimburse the Government immediately for all related costs incurred with respect to such utilization, including a reasonable and proportionate share of fixed, platform, data transmission, and launch costs; and

(2) such utilization would not interfere with or otherwise compromise intended civilian Government missions, as determined by the agency responsible for such civilian platform.

(b) The Secretary may offer assistance to private sector parties in finding appropriate opportunities for such utilization.

(c) To the extent provided in advance by appropriation Acts, any Federal agency may enter into agreements for such utilization if such agreements are consistent with such agency's mission and statutory authority, and if such remote-sensing space system is licensed by the Secretary before commencing operation.

(d) The provisions of this section do not apply to activities carried out under title V.

(e) Nothing in this title shall affect the authority of the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.). 47 USC 609.

TERMINATION

SEC. 406. If, five years after the expiration of the six-year period described in section 304(a)(2), no private sector party has been licensed and continued in operation under the provisions of this title, the authority of this title shall terminate. 15 USC 4246.

TITLE V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUED FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 501. (a)(1) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is directed to continue and to enhance such Administration's programs of remote-sensing research and development. 15 USC 4261.

(2) The Administrator is authorized and encouraged to—

(A) conduct experimental space remote-sensing programs (including applications demonstration programs and basic research at universities);

(B) develop remote-sensing technologies and techniques, including those needed for monitoring the Earth and its environment; and

(C) conduct such research and development in cooperation with other Federal agencies and with public and private research entities (including private industry, universities, State and local governments, foreign governments, and international organizations) and to enter into arrangements (including joint ventures) which will foster such cooperation.

(b)(1) The Secretary is directed to conduct a continuing program of—

(A) research in applications of remote-sensing;

(B) monitoring of the Earth and its environment; and

(C) development of technology for such monitoring.

(2) Such program may include support of basic research at universities and demonstrations of applications.

(3) The Secretary is authorized and encouraged to conduct such research, monitoring, and development in cooperation with other Federal agencies and with public and private research entities (including private industry, universities, State and local governments, foreign governments, and international organizations) and to enter into arrangements (including joint ventures) which will foster such cooperation.

(c)(1) In order to enhance the United States ability to manage and utilize its renewable and nonrenewable resources, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are authorized and encouraged to conduct programs of research and development in the applications of remote sensing using funds appropriated for such purposes.

(2) Such programs may include basic research at universities, demonstrations of applications, and cooperative activities involving other Government agencies, private sector parties, and foreign and international organizations.

(d) Other Federal agencies are authorized and encouraged to conduct research and development on the use of remote sensing in fulfillment of their authorized missions, using funds appropriated for such purposes.

Report.

(e) The Secretary and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall, within one year after the date of enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, jointly develop and transmit to the Congress a report which includes (1) a unified national plan for remote-sensing research and development applied to the Earth and its atmosphere; (2) a compilation of progress in the relevant ongoing research and development activities of the Federal agencies; and (3) an assessment of the state of our knowledge of the Earth and its atmosphere, the needs for additional research (including research related to operational Federal remote-sensing space programs), and opportunities available for further progress.

USE OF EXPERIMENTAL DATA

15 USC 4262.

SEC. 502. Data gathered in Federal experimental remote-sensing space programs may be used in related research and development programs funded by the Federal Government (including applications

programs) and cooperative research programs, but not for commercial uses or in competition with private sector activities, except pursuant to section 503.

SALE OF EXPERIMENTAL DATA

SEC. 503. Data gathered in Federal experimental remote-sensing space programs may be sold en bloc through a competitive process (consistent with national security interests and international obligations of the United States and in accordance with section 607) to any United States entity which will market the data on a nondiscriminatory basis. 15 USC 4263.

TITLE VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS

NONDISCRIMINATORY DATA AVAILABILITY

SEC. 601. (a) Any unenhanced data generated by any system operator under the provisions of this Act shall be made available to all users on a nondiscriminatory basis in accordance with the requirements of this Act. Public availability. 15 USC 4271.

(b) Any system operator shall make publicly available the prices, policies, procedures, and other terms and conditions (but, in accordance with section 104(3)(C), not necessarily the names of buyers or their purchases) upon which the operator will sell such data.

ARCHIVING OF DATA

SEC. 602. (a) It is in the public interest for the United States Government— 15 USC 4272.

(1) to maintain an archive of land remote-sensing data for historical, scientific, and technical purposes, including long-term global environmental monitoring;

(2) to control the content and scope of the archive; and

(3) to assure the quality, integrity, and continuity of the archive.

(b) The Secretary shall provide for long-term storage, maintenance, and upgrading of a basic, global, land remote-sensing data set (hereinafter referred to as the "basic data set") and shall follow reasonable archival practices to assure proper storage and preservation of the basic data set and timely access for parties requesting data. The basic data set which the Secretary assembles in the Government archive shall remain distinct from any inventory of data which a system operator may maintain for sales and for other purposes.

(c) In determining the initial content of, or in upgrading, the basic data set, the Secretary shall—

(1) use as a baseline the data archived on the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) take into account future technical and scientific developments and needs;

(3) consult with and seek the advice of users and producers of remote-sensing data and data products;

(4) consider the need for data which may be duplicative in terms of geographical coverage but which differ in terms of season, spectral bands, resolution, or other relevant factors;

(5) include, as the Secretary considers appropriate, unenhanced data generated either by the Landsat system, pursuant to title III, or by licensees under title IV;

(6) include, as the Secretary considers appropriate, data collected by foreign ground stations or by foreign remote-sensing space systems; and

(7) ensure that the content of the archive is developed in accordance with section 607.

(d) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall request data needed for the basic data set and pay to the providing system operator reasonable costs for reproduction and transmission. A system operator shall promptly make requested data available in a form suitable for processing for archiving.

Marketing.

(e) Any system operator shall have the exclusive right to sell all data that the operator provides to the United States remote-sensing data archive for a period to be determined by the Secretary but not to exceed ten years from the date the data are sensed. In the case of data generated from the Landsat system prior to the implementation of the contract described in section 202(a), any contractor selected pursuant to section 202 shall have the exclusive right to market such data on behalf of the United States Government for the duration of such contract. A system operator may relinquish the exclusive right and consent to distribution from the archive before the period of exclusive right has expired by terminating the offer to sell particular data.

Public availability.

(f) After the expiration of such exclusive right to sell, or after relinquishment of such right, the data provided to the United States remote-sensing data archive shall be in the public domain and shall be made available to requesting parties by the Secretary at prices reflecting reasonable costs of reproduction and transmittal.

(g) In carrying out the functions of this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable and as provided in advance by appropriation Acts, use existing Government facilities.

NONREPRODUCTION

15 USC 4273.

SEC. 603. Unenhanced data distributed by any system operator under the provisions of this Act may be sold on the condition that such data will not be reproduced or disseminated by the purchaser.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR ASSISTANCE

15 USC 4274.

SEC. 604. The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Secretary of Defense and the heads of other Federal agencies may provide assistance to system operators under the provisions of this Act. Substantial assistance shall be reimbursed by the operator, except as otherwise provided by law.

ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT

15 USC 4275.

SEC. 605. The Secretary may, by means of a competitive process, allow a licensee under title IV or any other private party to buy, lease, or otherwise acquire the use of equipment from the Landsat system, when such equipment is no longer needed for the operation of such system or for the sale of data from such system. Officials of other Federal civilian agencies are authorized and encouraged to cooperate with the Secretary in carrying out the provisions of this section.

RADIO FREQUENCY ALLOCATION

SEC. 606. (a) Within thirty days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President (or the President's delegee, if any, with authority over the assignment of frequencies to radio stations or classes of radio stations operated by the United States) shall make available for nongovernmental use spectrum presently allocated to Government use, for use by United States Landsat and commercial remote-sensing space systems. The spectrum to be so made available shall conform to any applicable international radio or wire treaty or convention, or regulations annexed thereto. Within ninety days thereafter, the Federal Communications Commission shall utilize appropriate procedures to authorize the use of such spectrum for nongovernmental use. Nothing in this section shall preclude the ability of the Commission to allocate additional spectrum to commercial land remote-sensing space satellite system use.

President of U.S.
15 USC 4276.

(b) To the extent required by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), an application shall be filed with the Federal Communications Commission for any radio facilities involved with the commercial remote-sensing space system.

47 USC 609.

(c) It is the intent of Congress that the Federal Communications Commission complete the radio licensing process under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), upon the application of any private sector party or consortium operator of any commercial land remote-sensing space system subject to this Act, within one hundred and twenty days of the receipt of an application for such licensing. If final action has not occurred within one hundred and twenty days of the receipt of such an application, the Federal Communications Commission shall inform the applicant of any pending issues and of actions required to resolve them.

(d) Authority shall not be required from the Federal Communications Commission for the development and construction of any United States land remote-sensing space system (or component thereof), other than radio transmitting facilities or components, while any licensing determination is being made.

(e) Frequency allocations made pursuant to this section by the Federal Communications Commission shall be consistent with international obligations and with the public interest.

CONSULTATION

SEC. 607. (a) The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Defense on all matters under this Act affecting national security. The Secretary of Defense shall be responsible for determining those conditions, consistent with this Act, necessary to meet national security concerns of the United States and for notifying the Secretary promptly of such conditions.

Defense and national security.
15 USC 4277.

(b)(1) The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State on all matters under this Act affecting international obligations. The Secretary of State shall be responsible for determining those conditions, consistent with this Act, necessary to meet international obligations and policies of the United States and for notifying the Secretary promptly of such conditions.

(2) Appropriate Federal agencies are authorized and encouraged to provide remote-sensing data, technology, and training to developing nations as a component of programs of international aid.

(3) The Secretary of State shall promptly report to the Secretary any instances outside the United States of discriminatory distribution of data.

(c) If, as a result of technical modifications imposed on a system operator on the basis of national security concerns, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense or with other Federal agencies, determines that additional costs will be incurred by the system operator, or that past development costs (including the cost of capital) will not be recovered by the system operator, the Secretary may require the agency or agencies requesting such technical modifications to reimburse the system operator for such additional or development costs, but not for anticipated profits. Reimbursements may cover costs associated with required changes in system performance, but not costs ordinarily associated with doing business abroad.

AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION, 1983

15 USC 1517 note.

SEC. 608. Subsection (a) of section 201 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, 1983 (Public Law 97-324; 96 Stat. 1601) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to plan and provide for the management and operation of civil remote-sensing space systems, which may include the Landsat 4 and 5 satellites and associated ground system equipment transferred from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; to provide for user fees; and to plan for the transfer of the operation of civil remote-sensing space systems to the private sector when in the national interest.".

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

15 USC 4278.

SEC. 609. (a) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $75,000,000 for fiscal year 1985 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act. Such sums shall remain available until expended, but shall not become available until the time periods specified in sections 202(c) and 303(c) have expired.

(b) The authorization provided for under subsection (a) shall be in addition to moneys authorized pursuant to title II of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, 1983.

15 USC 1517 note.

TITLE VII—PROHIBITION OF COMMERCIALIZATION OF WEATHER SATELLITES

PROHIBITION

President of U.S.
15 USC 4291.

SEC. 701. Neither the President nor any other official of the Government shall make any effort to lease, sell, or transfer to the private sector, commercialize, or in any way dismantle any portion of the weather satellite systems operated by the Department of Commerce or any successor agency.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

SEC. 702. Regardless of any change in circumstances subsequent to the enactment of this Act, even if such change makes it appear to be in the national interest to commercialize weather satellites, neither the President nor any official shall take any action prohibited by section 701 unless this title has first been repealed. 15 USC 4292.

Approved July 17, 1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 5155:

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-647 (Comm. on Science and Technology).
SENATE REPORT No. 98-458 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):
Apr. 9, considered and passed House.
June 8, considered and passed Senate, amended.
June 28, House concurred in Senate amendment with an amendment.
June 29, Senate concurred in House amendment.
WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 20, No. 29 (1984):
July 17, Presidential statement.