



WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

ALLEN H. WATKINS

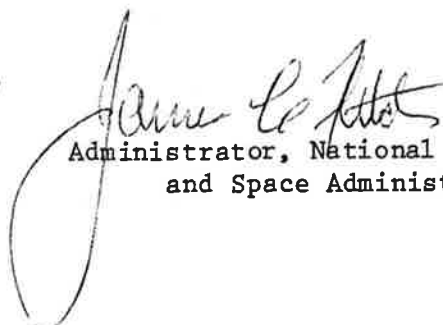
The Department of the Interior and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration present the 1986 William T. Pecora Award to Allen H. Watkins.

Allen H. Watkins has made exceptional contributions to the field of remote sensing, to the processing, archiving, and distribution of remotely-sensed data, and to the development of applications of these data that have been of appreciable value to a broad range of scientific studies. He first served as a manager for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in various key offices, and since 1973, as the Chief of the Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center of the Geological Survey. In this latter role he has developed the EROS Data Center into a world-renowned facility to which hundreds of resource specialists, both national and international in origin, have come to receive training in remote sensing and spatial data analysis techniques. His ability to develop research directions and to attract and retain the personnel best able to produce significant results has further enhanced the reputation of the Center. For example, the EROS Digital Image Processing System (EDIPS) that greatly improved processing efficiency and the quality of Landsat data was developed in house. The capability has also been developed to digitally mosaic Landsat, meteorological satellite, cartographic data and other forms of digital data. The design, development, and demonstration of a low-cost Remote Information Processing System (RIPS) was carried out at the Center. This system is being used in selected Geological Survey field offices and is the prototype for a new generation of spatial data processing systems, currently under development by both the public and private sectors. On the international scene, Mr. Watkins in cooperation with other concerned Federal agencies and various foreign governments continues to be instrumental in establishing policies for Landsat data formats, standards, and distribution that have a broad and sweeping impact. The communication and coordination required to respond to the increase in Landsat ground stations, worldwide, has been

greatly facilitated by Mr. Watkins' active role in the Landsat Ground Station Operators Working Group. On the national scene, Mr. Watkins has employed his exceptional interpersonal skills and great strengths as an able negotiator to serve as the principal representative of the Department of the Interior on major intra-Governmental committees. He was deeply involved in the successful implementation of the transfer of management responsibility for the Landsat Program from NASA to NOAA. More recently he has been involved in the successful deliberations which resulted in the smooth transfer of the Landsat system operations to the private sector.

In recognition of the great breadth and depth of Mr. Watkins' achievements in fostering the use of remote sensing in the solution of national and international problems, the Department of the Interior and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, take great pleasure in presenting the William T. Pecora Award to Mr. Allen H. Watkins.


Secretary of the Interior


Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration