



WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

Landsat 8 Team

For outstanding contributions toward understanding the Earth's land surface and surrounding coastal regions

The Landsat Data Continuity Mission was successfully launched on February 11, 2013, extending a long-held dream for the entire Landsat program to have an observatory that provides continuing global high temporal and spatial resolution data for important science and applications. Renamed Landsat 8 on May 30, 2013, this mission continues the goals established by William Pecora and other visionaries 50 years ago to substantially advance our understanding of the terrestrial component of the Earth system, particularly the role of human activities in global dynamics. The Landsat 8 Team has performed at the highest levels from the beginning of mission development to the present.

The Landsat 8 Team is a highly successful partnership between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), with strong contributions from industry and the academic community. The Landsat 8 Project Office at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) oversaw development and launch of the satellite, and the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Center managed ground system development and assumed operation of the mission following launch and in-orbit commissioning. The Thermal Infrared Sensor (TIRS) instrument was built at GSFC. Ball Aerospace & Technology Corporation was responsible for the Operational Land Imager (OLI), Orbital Sciences Corporation built the spacecraft, and United Launch Alliance provided the Atlas 2 launch vehicle. The Landsat Science Team of university and government scientists provided scientific and technical input to a wide range of mission activities.

The Landsat 8 Team met the immense challenge of continuation and advancement of the Landsat legacy of observations with skill and efficiency. The OLI sensor on Landsat 8 is a substantial technical advancement over the Thematic Mapper (TM) sensors flown since 1982 on Landsats 4, 5, and 7. In addition, the TIRS instrument utilizes, for the first time, a two-band thermal infrared sensor to more effectively address atmospheric contamination in the thermal infrared spectrum.

Landsat 8 performance exceeds expectations, providing more imagery, higher quality measurements, and new capabilities over previous missions. Most important, Landsat 8 will extend the unprecedented Landsat record to 45 or more years. We would not be in this exceptional position of discovery without the outstanding accomplishments and dedication of all members of the Landsat 8 Team.

Secretary
Department of the Interior

Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration