



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS
WASHINGTON DC 20230

OFFICE
OF THE
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, March 10, 1994

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U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE DAVID J. BARRAM ANNOUNCES
ADMINISTRATION'S NEW POLICY ON REMOTE SENSING SPACE CAPABILITIES

WASHINGTON -- In another Clinton administration breakthrough effort to increase global market access for American business, and help create jobs, Deputy Commerce Secretary David J. Barram announced today the President's decision to allow for the commercial sale of remote sensing technology.

"On behalf of the President and Secretary Brown, I am pleased to announce today a major milestone in the commercialization of space-based imagery. After a high level policy review, the Clinton Administration has decided to allow expanded sales of commercial images from space and the export of the remote sensing systems themselves. This Administration's policy unleashes the potential of a critical 21st century information technology at a time when the international market for space-based imagery appears poised for significant expansion," Deputy Secretary Barram said.

This new remote sensing policy is expected to open the way for U.S. firms to aggressively compete in a market that already accounts for nearly \$400 million worldwide, and is expected to grow to more than \$2 billion by the year 2000. Including the market for geographic information systems, the market for space-based imagery could be in the range of \$5 to \$15 billion by the turn of the century.

Deputy Secretary Barram continued, "This policy is particularly significant because it acknowledges the relationship between this country's national security and its long-term economic security. It recognizes the two as inextricably woven together: our long term national security is directly tied to our ability to effectively compete in this critical global imaging market. In short, this policy will assist U.S. companies to succeed commercially by supporting a 21st century industry. It means high-skill, high-wage jobs, and enhanced business productivity and opportunity."

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Remote Sensing Policy Announcement
Page Two

As emphasized this morning by Vice President Gore, this new policy also will help the defense industry find new commercial applications for defense technologies. This timely, high-quality data, which will include global change and environmental data, also is expected to become an important part of our country's National Information Infrastructure.

Under this policy, U.S. companies will be licensed by the Secretary of Commerce to operate private remote sensing systems and sell those images to domestic and foreign entities. The export of "turn-key" systems will be considered on a case-by-case basis under an export license issued by the State Department. National security and international obligations will be protected through specific conditions in the license. The export of sensitive technologies will be considered on a restricted basis to protect advanced capabilities.