

ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The two Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), (called the Parties in this MOU), are: the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) of Canada, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce of the United States of America.
- 1.2 During the last decade the Parties have each taken part in various Satellite missions that have demonstrated the value of free flying polar orbiting satellites for gathering remotely sensed data describing the earth's surface and troposphere. In particular the synthetic aperture radar of the SEASAT mission demonstrated the microwave technology and the performance requirements necessary for land use determination, sea ice surveillance, oceanography, and geological mapping. Building on this experience the RADARSAT Project, (called the Project in this MOU), has been conceived as an advanced remote sensing mission with a wide range of objectives.
- 1.3 The two Parties to this MOU are contributing in different ways to the realization of the Project according to their technical capabilities and agency mandates. As a consequence of these differing mandates the reasons for supporting the Project vary and as a result, the emphasis given to each objective listed in Article 4 of this MOU also varies from Party to Party. Thus, for example, the CSA primary need is to obtain data for pre-operational purposes, through a program which includes the participation of those Canadian provinces contributing to the Project costs. For the U.S., the NASA primary need is to obtain experimental data to support global research and application demonstration efforts of its own and those of other U.S. Government Departments and Agencies; NOAA's primary interest is to ensure the availability of this data to U.S. government and private users and promote its use on a widespread basis consistent with U.S. law.
- 1.4 With these considerations in mind, the Parties jointly undertake the Project with the purpose of advancing space science and technology and the applications of remote sensing technology in areas such as research studies of the earth's land, ocean and ice cover, demonstration projects,