

In 1962, when Canada launched its own Alouette 1 scientific satellite into space, the information it gathered from the earth's ionosphere was shared with researchers worldwide. That spirit of co-operation continues today throughout the national program of airborne and spaceborne Remote sensing activities.

Since 1972, the central organization in the national program has been the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS), which has its headquarters in Ottawa. CCRS is part of the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. From the beginning, the knowledge and experience gathered at CCRS have been made available to other countries and their agencies.

Meeting user needs

A unique feature of the Canadian remote sensing program is the thorough integration of technological know-how with user needs, resulting in the development of low-cost but highly effective systems, well adapted to users' operational requirements.

As a result of this responsiveness to user requirements, many of the systems and approaches developed in Canada have found worldwide acceptance. These include low-cost, high-performance ground receiving stations, advanced image analysis systems, and radar data acquisition and processing systems.

The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing has ground receiving stations in operation at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and Gatineau, Quebec, to receive data from the LANDSAT and NOAA satellites of the United States and from France's new SPOT satellite.

CCRS expertise and research are being used by Canadian industry throughout the world.
(Photo from CIDA/CCRS.)

