

ISRO:EOS:POLICY-01:2001
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION HQ
BANGALORE-560 094

REMOTE SENSING DATA POLICY (RSDP)

Recognising that Remote Sensing data provides much essential and critical natural resources information – which is an input for developmental activities at different levels and is also of benefit to society;

Noting that a large number of users – both within and outside government use Remote Sensing data from Indian and foreign remote sensing satellites for various developmental applications;

Taking into consideration the recent availability of very high-resolution images from foreign and commercial remote sensing satellites and noting the need for proper and better management of the data acquisition distribution from these satellites in India;

Recognising that national interest is paramount and that security consideration of the country needs to be given utmost importance;

The Government of India adopts the **Remote Sensing Data Policy (RSDP)** – containing modalities for managing and/or permitting the acquisition/dissemination of remote sensing data in support of developmental activities.

Department of Space (DOS) of the Government of India will be the nodal agency for all actions under this policy, unless otherwise stated.

1. For operating a remote sensing satellite from India, license and/or permission of the Government, through the nodal agency, will be necessary.
 - a. As a national commitment and as a “public good”, Government assures a continuous/improving observing/imaging capability from its own Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS) programme.
 - b. The Government of India, through the nodal agency, will be the sole and exclusive owner of all data collected/received from IRS. All users will be provided with only a license to use the said data and add value to the satellite data.

- c. Government reserves right to impose control over imaging tasks and distribution of data from IRS or any other Indian remote sensing satellite when it is of the opinion that national security and/or international obligations and/or foreign policies of the Government so require.
 2. For acquisition/distribution of remote sensing data within India, license/permission from the Government of India, through the nodal agency, will be necessary.
 - a. Government reserves the right to select and permit agencies to acquire/distribute satellite remote sensing data in India. DOS shall be competent to decide about the procedure for granting license/permission for dissemination of such data and for the levy of necessary fees.
 - b. To cater to the developmental needs of the country, the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) of the DOS is vested with the authority to acquire and disseminate all satellite remote sensing data in India – both from Indian and foreign satellites.
 - i. NRSA will enter into appropriate arrangements with DOS for acquiring/distributing data from IRS within the visibility circle of NRSA receiving station(s).
 - ii. NRSA will be competent to enter into agreements with foreign satellite operator(s) for acquisition/distribution of foreign satellite data in India. However, so far as the acquisition/distribution of IKONOS data in India is concerned, Antrix Corporation Limited (of DOS) will conclude agreements with Space Imaging, USA on such terms and conditions as may be considered appropriate by it and NRSA will distribute the data as per terms agreed to with Antrix.
 - c. NRSA will maintain a systematic National Remote Sensing Data Archive and a log of all acquisitions/sales of data for all satellites.
 3. For acquisition/distribution of IRS data for use in countries other than India, the Government of India, through the nodal agency, would grant license to such bodies/agencies of those countries as are interested in the acquisition/distribution of IRS data, as per specific procedures.
 - a. The Antrix Corporation Limited (of DOS) is vested with the authority for receiving the applications for grant of license for acquisition/distribution of IRS data outside of India; to consider and decide about the grant of

- license within the policy considerations of the Government and to enter into licensing agreements with the prospective users on behalf of the Government. It shall be competent to levy such fees for granting licenses as may be considered appropriate by it. It shall also be responsible, where necessary, for rendering any further help/guidance needed by the license.
- b. The Government reserves right to impose restrictions over imaging tasks and distribution of IRS data in any country when it is of the opinion that national security and/or international obligations and/or foreign policies of the Government so require.
4. Government prescribes the following guidelines to be adopted for dissemination of satellite remote sensing data in India:
- a. All data of resolutions up to 5.8 m shall be distributed on a non-discriminatory basis and on “as requested basis”
 - b. With a view to protect national security interests, all data of 5.8 m and better than 5.8 m resolution images will be screened by the appropriate agency before distribution so that images of sensitive areas are excluded.
 - i Data of 5.8m and up to 1m resolution can be distributed to users after screening and ensuring the sensitive areas are excluded.
 - li Data of 1m resolution and better will also be screened as above and the following procedure will be followed for its distribution.
 1. Government users can obtain the data without any further clearance.
 2. Private sector agencies, recommended by at least one Government agency for use of 1 m and better resolution data for supporting development activities, can obtain it without any further clearance.
 3. Other Private, Foreign and other users can obtain the data after further clearance from an inter-agency High Resolution Image Clearance Committee (HRC).
 4. Specific requests for data of sensitive areas, by any user, can be distributed only after obtaining clearance from HRC.

5. Specific sale/non-disclosure agreements to be concluded between NRSA and users for data of 1 m resolution and better.
5. This policy comes into effect immediately and may be reviewed from time-to-time-by Government.