



Allegiance of SPOT

- Changing usage of a remote sensing satellite



“Views From A Distance: Remote Sensing Technologies and the Perception of the Earth”

- Funded by the Swedish Research Council (VR) for the coming 3 years
- Case studies of remote sensing used for producing images of the earth, ice landscapes and ocean floors

”Remote sensing”



“The term ‘Remote sensing’ refers here to technology used for analysing conditions and phenomenon on earth and in the atmosphere from a distance.”

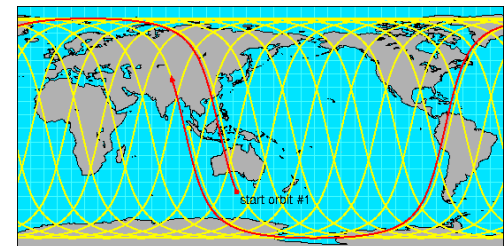
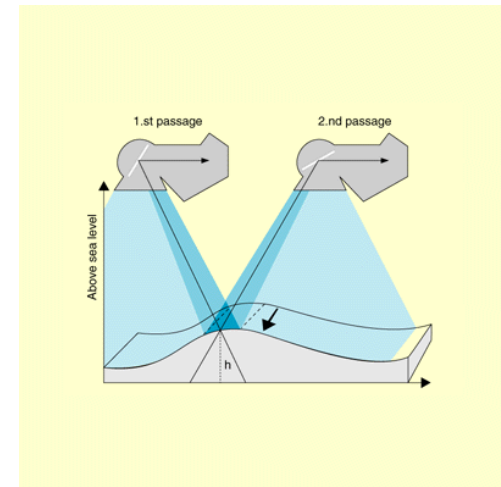
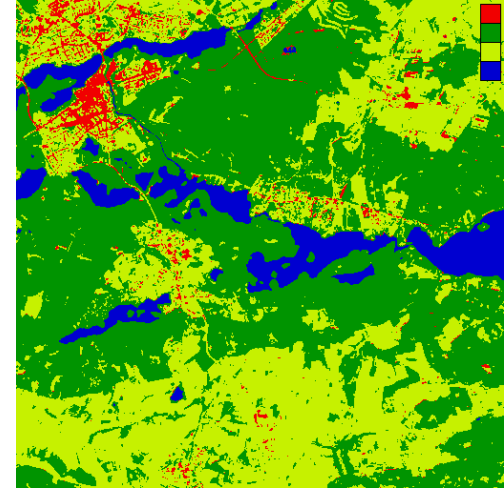
– Wormbs (2007)

SPOT (Système Pour l’Observation de la Terre)

- 2 mobile HRV telescopes
- data recorders
- system to transmit images to ground-based stations

polar-orbital satellite

Whole Earth Data Set in 26 days





HRV

France-Sweden-Belgium

CHOOSING EQUIPMENT

GATHER SUPPORT 

Explore Earth's resources

PROBLEM AREA

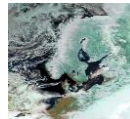
Detect Environmental Phenomena

CIRCULAR CHAIN

DATA SET

IMAGES

Marketing



Aesthetics & Display

EXECUTION



DATA MANAGEMENT

Code





What does images do for remote sensing satellites?

Why is it that ownership of images does not also secure control of their usage and meaning?



Crisis and Possibilities – 1972

- Détente – European Space
- Industrial structural crisis – commercialisation of space
- Environmentalism

“to see and shape environment...to forecast natural phenomena and exploit Earth’s resources” – SPOT Mission description, 1978

Support & collaboration: France – Sweden

1974 French-Swedish collaboration

1978 (1981) Treaty to use ESRANGE
for SPOT

1984 Supplementary agreement

1985 Commercial collaboration,
SPOT Image – Satellitbild

1986 Launch of SPOT

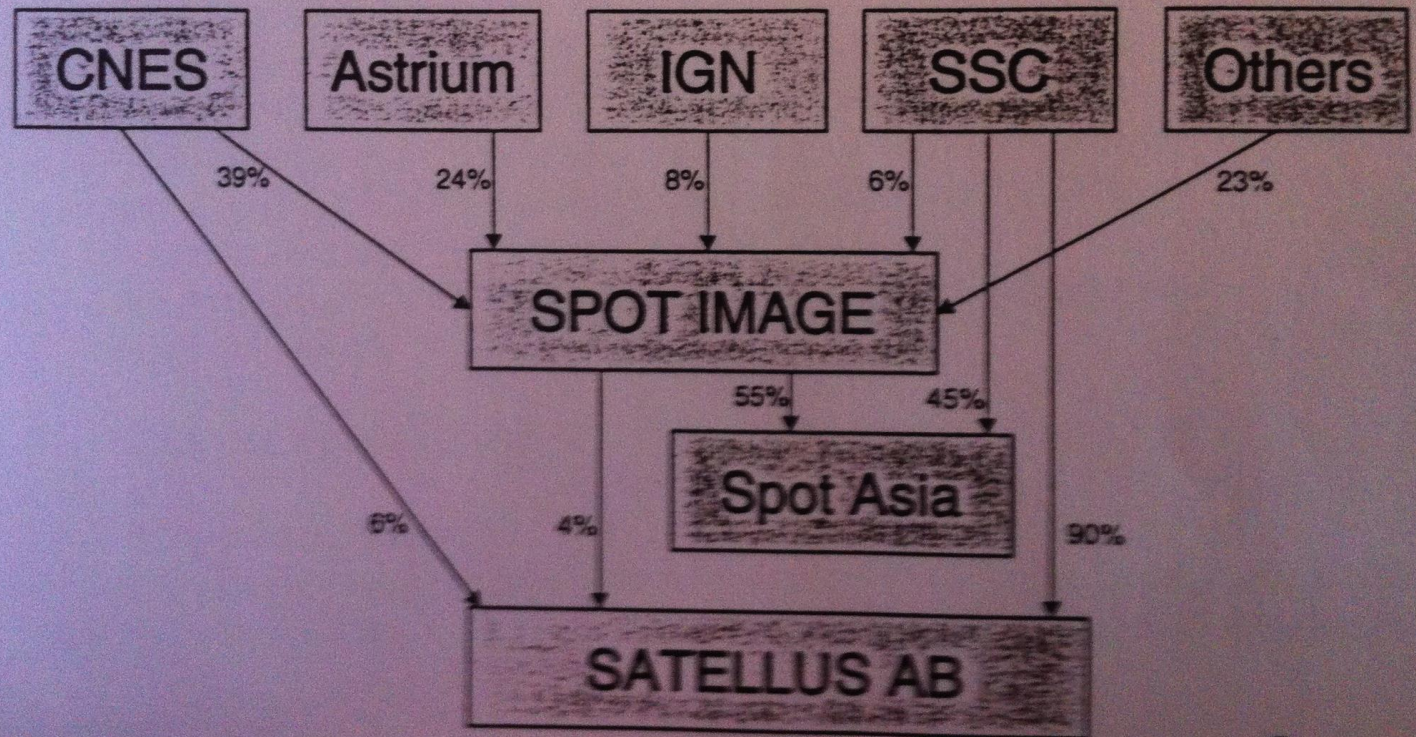




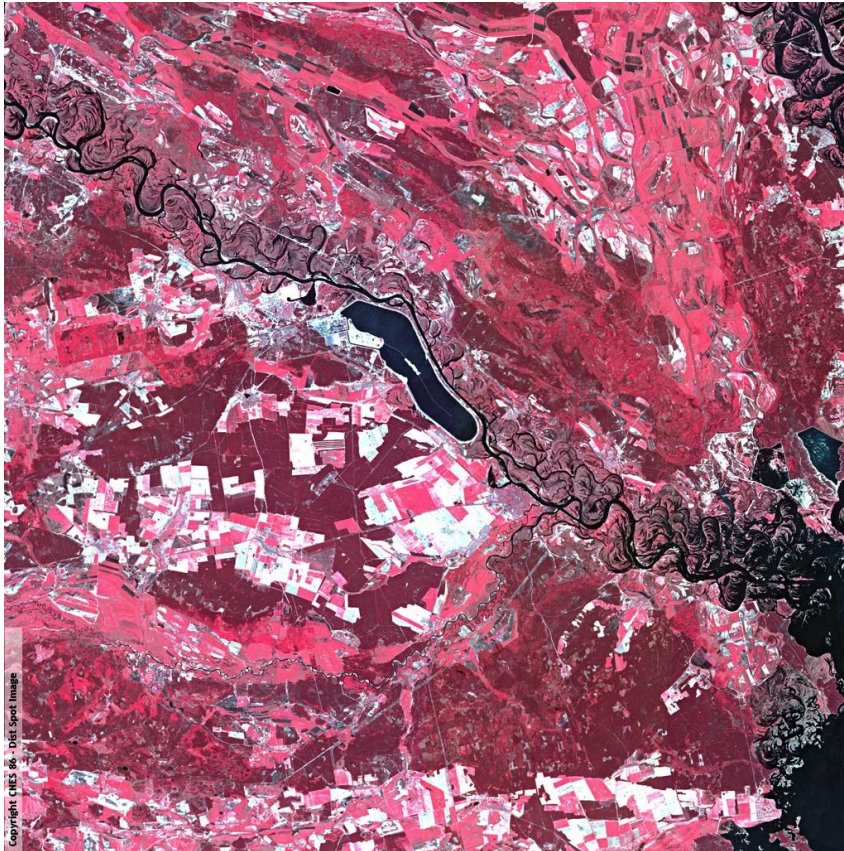
Swedish 'Space Push' – Five-fold budget increase 1979/86

Budgetår	Anslag F1 STU (rymd- verksamhet)	Anslag F4 (Europeiskt rymdsamarbete m. m.)	Anslag F5 (Tele-X)
1979/80	10,1	80	
1980/81	11,5	118	
1981/82	12,5	169	
1982/83	13,9	210	
1983/84	15,2	124	574
1984/85	15,8	145	477
1985/86	16,4	135	218
Summa	95,4	981	1 269

Company Ownership



Chernobyl, May 1986



Blown-out Reactor 4

EBBA







“The bottleneck with digital analytical systems are education...applications require knowledge both of developers and consumers”

– SPOT Pro Memoria for Program Plan, 1985



“Direct usage of the technology can be facilitated by, so called, user-friendly software. The increased capacity of personal computers have already enabled interesting solutions to be tried out. For example, you nowadays work with ‘pointing’ on the screen using a rolling-ball or ‘mouse’ instead of writing commands on a keyboard. By clicking on a button on the ‘mouse’ you can select fields in ‘menus’, open ‘windows’ on the screen, etc. Some of these ideas should also be tried in systems for analysing remote sensing data.”

– SPOT Pro Memoria for Program Plan, 1986

To conclude

- Element of serendipity (usage as key issue in reframing problem areas)
- Networks renegotiated – consider new users and usages

