Remote sensing data are vital to understanding the physical world and addressing many of its needs and problems. Characterization, evaluation, and integration of the multitude of remote sensing information is key to allowing decision makers to address these societal needs. In 2001 several Federal Agencies formed the Joint Agency Commercial Imagery Evaluation (JACIE) team to leverage resources for the characterization of commercial remote sensing data. The USGS is proud to sponsor and support the JACIE team to help the remote sensing community understand the quality and use of remote sensing data. The USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center Remote Sensing Technologies (RST) Project and its JACIE co-chairs from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are proud to co-chair the JACIE Team. The JACIE team is hosting the 13th annual JACIE Civil Commercial Imagery Evaluation Workshop on March 26-28, 2014 in Louisville, KY.

JACIE is an effort to coordinate data assessments between the participating agencies and partners and communicate the knowledge and results of the quality and utility of the remotely sensed data available for government and private use. JACIE agencies and partners analyze remote sensing commercial data products to provide scientists and other users with independent verification of data quality. Each agency brings unique resources and strengths to this task. JACIE evaluations have been instrumental in generating many improvements to remote sensing product quality as well as enhancing the working relationships between government and the commercial remote sensing industry.

Geo-positional, spatial, and radiometric quality are three primary areas for JACIE image characterizations. Combined, these properties help to describe the quality of image data and strongly affect the usability of the data for a myriad of Earth science applications and studies. The JACIE provides a forum where the growing body of available remote sensing data research and assessments results are presented to several hundred government and industry attendees. This highly regarded workshop affords the opportunity for presenters to exchange information regarding the characterization and application of commercial imagery used by the public sector. Presenters also have the opportunity to provide updates for current and future enhancements to existing sensors and promote new sensor uses and data products.

Analyses of satellite and digital aerial systems are presented each year at the JACIE workshops. The USGS EROS RST Project and partner Federal agencies will continue to evaluate and assess current and new sources of data and present them at future workshops to the remote sensing community. Research carries on into the quality and usability of remotely sensed data from satellite and airborne platforms, whether public or private, foreign or domestic.

To see the JACIE Website and all past proceedings and presentations, go to: http://calval.cr.usgs.gov/jacie/ or QR code.