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Summer LUNCHEON

The BARSC Summer Luncheon will be held at the Rubens Hotel, on the 6 July.

The speakers will be Dr Nick Veck (NRSC) and Mr Joerg Herrmann (Astrium GmbH), on the subject: "The InfoTerra Initiative – Status and Opportunities."

BNSC guests will include Paula Freedman and Dr Colin Hicks.

Tickets cost £35. Early booking is advised as places are limited.

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A year of achievements

The retiring Chair reviews the highlights of the year at the AGM

In reviewing the past year's activities, outgoing Chairman, Dr Zofia Stott commented on the extent to which BARSC had been able to increase dialogue with BNSC. Particular fruits of this had been joint participation with BNSC and RSS at the AGI Conference at Olympia and the acceleration of BNSC's GIFTSS initiative with other government departments. Peter Churchill of the European Commission had addressed the annual lunch, describing the JRC's vision of the evolution of the EO market. BARSC had been especially active in consultation processes during the year, often in collaboration with the UKISC EO sub-committee; topics included the UK Space Strategy, UK National EO Programme, DTI evaluation of UK Civil Space and the House of Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee on Space (see separate report on second page).

Challenges ahead

The new Chairman outlines policies for the coming year

At the AGM, incoming chairman Nigel Press congratulated Dr Stott on BARSC's recent achievements and thanked her and the other committee members for all their hard work. He commented that the challenge ahead remained considerable, and that he would be encouraging BARSC to continue to enforce the fact that a strong ground segment and applications/exploitation sector was crucial to the justification and success of EO missions. He was heartened by the open dialogue with BNSC and would be working to build further on this. He also hoped to increase communication with members and awareness of BARSC's views through a regular newsletter and wider use of the web site. At least one major meeting would be held, with the principal objective of outreach to potential new users.

New committee in place

Committee members elected at the March 2000 AGM:

Chair	Nigel Press	01732 865023	nigel@npagroup.com
Vice Chair	Nic Snape	01252 729007	nic@eos.co.uk
Past Chair	Zof Stott	0171 4464365	stottz@logica.com
Treasurer	John Haynes	0117 9717251	john.haynes@scisys.co.uk
Exec. Sec.	Jon Williams	020 7446 4310	williamsj@logica.com
Members:	David Morten	01732 865023	david@npagroup.com
	Stephen Newby	01707 391999	steven.newby@vega.co.uk
	Nick Veck	01252 362000	n.veck@nrsc.co.uk
	Ian Thomas	01483 767172	eoci_ilt@ieee.org



UK space policy inquiry

BARSC contributes its views and concerns to the Trade and Industry Select Committee

The Trade and Industry Select Committee received 30 written submissions in response to the call for evidence for their inquiry into UK Space Policy. To date there has only been one oral hearing, involving UKISC, BARSC and ASTOS. The following is a summary of the EO evidence provided by the Committee's Clerk.

Several of the written respondents, notably BARSC, focus on Earth observation. BARSC describe the role of EO, and the market. They argue that a greater UK EO national programme is needed, as are active steps by BNSC. There is a need to maintain links with ESA and there should be greater emphasis placed on the importance of Government as

user. They also argue that better FCO intelligence is needed. UKISC suggest that Government should be a major user of operational systems, and that its role is to establish a successful EO commercial sector.

There was also substantial discussion of EO by BARSC (represented by Dr Zofia Stott and Mr Nigel Press), at the first oral hearing, including discussion of growth in the market for EO data and spin-off from successful areas. Data policies, dual civil/military use of satellites, ESA involvement and competition were also discussed. BARSC members' primary concerns were that some ESA programmes such as DUP should be subscribed to by the UK and that more of the money spent on

EO should go on developing applications for the data rather than on obtaining it. BARSC praised

Money should go on developing applications for the data

BNSC's Applications Development Programme but was concerned that support for EO was losing momentum at a critical stage. BARSC also praised BNSC's role in helping ESA to develop a good data policy. BARSC mentioned that members would like to see the UK having its own facility to acquire high-resolution data from military satellites for government customers.

Annual conference

BARSC hosts successful meeting

The BARSC Annual Conference was held on Thursday March 16th in conjunction with BNSC who kindly provided access to the excellent venue at the DTI Conference Centre. The conference theme of 'New EO Technologies – New Information Services' was developed from topics that had been aired at the joint BARSC/RSS/BNSC presentation for the AGI Conference in the previous September, particularly new technology which will influence the development of EO in the New Millennium.

We were fortunate in having two keynote speakers visiting from Europe, both talking on possible new funding opportunities. Michaelis Ketselidis of the JRC described the ASTRON programme looking at the synergy between satellite telecomms, EO and navigation (GPS etc.).

Steven Coulson of ESRIN stood in for Mark Doherty and described ESA's new activities in EO applications. Richard Saull of BNSC also spoke on BNSC's current funding activities in EO applications, specifically the GIFTSS initiative to review possible applications in other government departments and the impending Sector Studies programme.

This set a positive framework in which to review new technologies, including presentations on low-cost mini-satellites from Marc Fouquet of Surrey Satellite Technology and EO data visualisation from Andy Wells of ERDAS. Anthony Dennis of NRSC reviewed hyperspectral remote sensing and the forthcoming generation of satellite sensors. Nigel Press of NPA described new developments in SAR interferometry, questioning

whether we should view this as Earth observation or rather as a form of precision surveying. Seppe Cassetari of GeoInformation spoke about high-resolution imagery but elegantly introduced a wide range of issues on branding and e-commerce which many realise will be as strong an influence on the future of EO as technology!

The meeting concluded with a lively discussion thanks in part to Mark Doherty who had by then arrived hot-foot from an ESA meeting! This conference was well attended, but the audience largely knew each other and our industry. It was agreed that future meetings should try to include a cross section of other potential new users.