

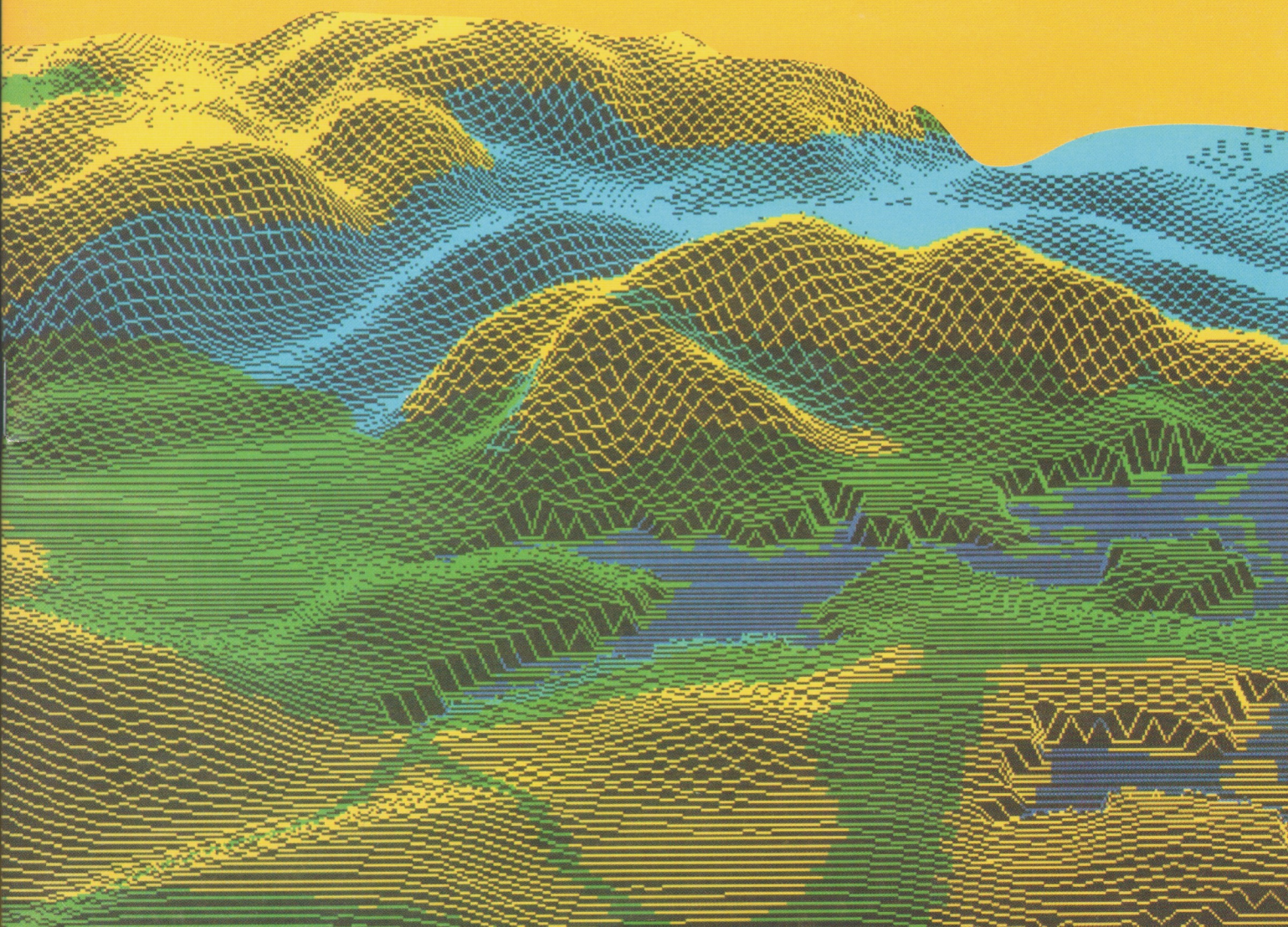
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MAILING ADDRESS

MGR, Institute of Geonics, ASCR
 P.O.Box 23, CZ-613 00 Brno,
 Czech Republic
 (fax) 42 5 578031
 (E-mail) ugn@isibrno.cz

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The XVIIIth ISPRS CONGRESS: Meeting of experts in photogrammetry and remote sensing

Vítězslav NOVÁČEK

The XVIIIth ISPRS Congress (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) was held in Vienna in 9-19 July, 1996. The representative „Austria Center Vienna” which is situated in the close vicinity of UN buildings was chosen for the Congress workshops. The Congress itself was preceded by demonstration of technologies (tutorials) in 8-9 July, 1996.

The ceremonial opening of the Congress took place in the Ceremonial Hall of the Habsburg family winter residence - Hofburg, 9 July in the evening hours. The opening speech was presented by Mr. Karl KRAUSS - Director of the XVIIIth Congress and, at the same time Professor of the Technical University in Vienna. Ceremonial speeches of ISPRS representatives and important Congress guests took turns with music performances of the Johann Strauss orchestra and ballet of the Vienna National Opera. In the course of this ceremonial introduction, Professor F. ACKERMANN from Stuttgart was nominated an honorary member of the Society. The following pompous ceremonial reception that was held in representative halls of Hofburg was organized by the Austrian Society for Geodesy and Geoinformatics.

The next nearly two weeks were devoted to the presentation of technical papers and thematically oriented posters in four halls of the Congress Center and in adjacent spaces. The highest number of presentations that included papers, reports and posters was in committees 3 and 4, the lowest number of them was in committees 1 and 6. The „last-minute” registered posters could be presented in a so called „Hyde Park Corner”. The most appealing ideas and hints from technical papers and reports reflected in Congress resolutions. General Assembly meetings were held in the afternoon hours, which decided a.o. on organizers of the next Congress. The afternoons were booked also for technical committee s and elections of new councilmen of the Society. Potential organizers of the XIXth Congress were Netherlands and Indonesia, in other words Dutch and Indonesian photogrammetrical societies. The Netherlands won by 140:52 votes. Director of the XIXth ISPRS Congress will be Prof. Jan Klaas BEEK, President of the ITC - International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences. The XIXth Congress will be held in Amsterdam, 16-22 July 2000. In addition to a whole range of new recommendations and ideas, the General Assembly selected a new Council whose members are as follows: **Lawrence W. FRITZ (U.S.A.) - President of ISPRS**, Shunji MURAI (Japan) - the first Vice-President, Marcio BARBOSA (Brazil) - the second Vice-President, John TRINDER (Australia) - Secretary General, Heinz RUETHER (South Africa) - Cashier, Jan Klaas BEEK (Netherlands) - Director of the XIXth Congress, Armin GRUEN (Switzerland) - Chairman of Financial Committee.

A technical exhibition with 97 participating companies, firms and institutions was opened on Monday, 15 July, 1996. Although the exhibition area rental was rather high, the exhibition hall was nearly full. Characteristic features of the exhibition can be described as follows:

- decline of the conventional photogrammetrical apparatus such as analytical plotters.
- digital photogrammetry has already passed the experimental stage having been verified in commercial applications,
- the stage of automation in orientation algorithms and DTM generation is high,

- easily available satellite photographs and new satellite commercial programmes will provide data whose resolution will be in meters,
- output equipment of high standard has recorded rapid commercial boom.

Beside the renowned firms such as Carl Zeiss, Intergraph, PCI, Erdas, ITC, Hansa Luftbild, GEOSPACE, ESRI, SPOT Image etc. there were also three representatives from the Czech Republic at the exhibition: Geodis Brno, s.r.o., Help Service Mapping Prague, and VÚGTK Zdiby. Their participation at the exhibition should be mentioned as respectable. The three companies have thus contributed to the good representation of the Czech Republic. The Brno office of the Institute of Geonics was represented in the group of posters with a sample sheet of Satellite Atlas of the Czech Republic. Methodology of the Satellite Atlas was published also in the Proceedings from the XVIIIth ISPRS Conference, Committee 4. The Congress was officially attended by 2528 participants of whom some 40 were from the Czech Republic. It is worth mentioning that there were several significant prizes awarded during the Congress, and it was for the first time in the history of ISPRS that a so called Doležal Award was granted that is sponsored by the Austrian Society. This prize was awarded to 30 participants from developing and reforming countries for the development of photogrammetry and remote sensing. One of the awarded was Ing. Karel SUKUP, Managing Director of Geodis Brno, s.r.o. The Congress included a colourful social programme - concerts, receptions, a visit to an exhibition, a castle party, a bike trip etc. These accompanying events make it possible for the Congress participants to drift away from technical and scientific issue for a while and to establish new friendly contacts with their colleagues.

44 Congress resolutions state the present situation in photogrammetry and remote sensing and bring recommendations for future development of this scientific branch in next four years. It was stated that the participation of our country is generally valued as positive and that our representatives from the scientific branches of photogrammetry and remote sensing keep pace with global progress.



Czech participants of the 18th ISPRS Congress in Vienna