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MONTHLY REPORT

for

SEPTEMBER 1978

VISSR Atmospheric Sounder (VAS)
Development and Performance Evaluation

Contract No.: NAS5-21965

Prepared by

Space Science and Engineering Center
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

for

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD

I. General

On September 8, 1978, P. Menzel of SSEC attended the VAS Wallops S/DB Design Review held in Baltimore, Maryland. Presentations on the system requirements and capabilities, software, and operation and control were heard.

II. Data Processing System Development

Work on the Data Base Manager (DBM) is proceeding. Operating systems are being loaded and tested, but sporadic hardware performance is slowing progress. The tape unit attached to the DBM and the 80 mbyte disc on the Applications Processor (AP) are not functioning properly. Repair efforts are underway. The synchronous interface between the processors has been successfully tested with the transfer of software from the DBM thru the interface into the AP. The VAS user terminal construction is nearly complete. Hardware and software checkout has begun.

The Westinghouse ground system protocol selection at the first level was assessed and accepted. Further communications for level two are planned for the near future. SSEC input for level three (information content within the protocol) must await final construction of the DBM data library handling software.

The TIROS-N receiving system is awaiting launch. During satellite tracking tests problems with the antenna rotors were discovered. These rotors have been replaced by stronger ones. The hardware for signal reception is ready. The software necessary for data ingest and archival has been tested.

III. Development of VAS Data Processing Techniques

The Nimbus software has been nearly all adapted to TIROS-N. Some changes remain to be made upon testing with actual TIROS-N data.



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10 October 1978

Mr. J. B. Connor
Contracting Officer, Code 289
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, Maryland 20771

Dear Mr. Connor:

In accordance with Article III of Contract NAS5-21965, I am submitting the required Progress Report for the month of September, 1978.

If you have any questions or desire further information, please contact me at (608) 262-0118.

Sincerely,

Paul Menzel
Program Manager

WPM/kmp

Enclosure

xc: H. Montgomery, Code 942 (10 copies)