



The Titan is being installed for an Antarctica survey conducted by the National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM). Credit: NCALM.

MAPPS Excellence Award Winners

MAPPS—the national association of private remote-sensing, spatial-data, and GIS firms—held its Geospatial Products and Services Excellence Awards ceremony at its annual winter meeting this February.

Judges who selected the grand prize winner called Teledyne Optech's new lidar sensor, the Titan ALTM, "a revolution in lidar applications"; it's the first airborne multi-

spectral lidar sensor in the world. The award was presented to Teledyne Optech COO Michel Stanier.

Judges agreed that the development was complex in that it involved:

1) acquiring three wave-

lengths simultaneously, 2) incorporating a metric camera imbedded in the system,

3) fitting it within a 16" gyro-stabilized mount, and 4) increasing the depth penetration of the bathymetric sensor.

"Multispectral lidar is becoming a powerful new remote sensing tool," said chief judge Robert Burtch, professor emeritus of surveying and photogrammetry at Ferris State University. "Multispectral camera data, when combined with digital elevation models, is useful in the classification of vegetation, trees, and various land features."

Cameras, being passive sensors, are limited in that they can collect data only when there is sufficient light available. However, as an active sensor, Titan has the unique ability to collect multispectral data day or night. This ability to provide data

immediately is essential in many situations, such as during emergency management where the timely production and dissemination of actionable intelligence can mitigate the loss of property and, in some cases, human life.

Researchers studying a region need to know more than simply the elevation of the ground and the height of the trees; they also need to know the types of trees present, the depth of the lakes, the quantity of foliage, soils, and more. This product helps address numerous applications with a single sensor.

Titan was designed in-house for the National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping at the University of Houston, and Teledyne Optech has since transferred the system to commercial production. Several systems have been delivered over the past year and are currently in use. ■

CATEGORY AWARDS

Category: Photogrammetry/Elevation Data Generation

Winner: **Woolpert**

Project: Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Headstone Mapping Project

Category: Remote Sensing

Winner: **Aerial Services**

Project: Maximizing Crop Yields Using Innovations in Remote Sensing

Category: GIS/IT

Winner: **Merrick**

Project: GIS Models Visualize Ancient Floods in Columbia

Category: Surveying/Field Data Collection

Winner: **AECOM**

Project: Protocol for Determining Grass Channel Credits

Category: Small Projects

Winner: **Terrasond**

Project: Bradley Lake Hydro Power Project