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NIMA REINFORCES ITS COMMITMENT TO REMOTE-SENSING INDUSTRY

The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) today announced that it is awarding a five-year contract to Longmont, CO-based DigitalGlobe, Inc., to assure the availability of high-resolution imagery from the next series of U.S. commercial imagery satellites. This contract, known as NextView, implements a new level of partnering between the U.S. Government and the remote-sensing industry. The contract affords greater access and priority, and advanced capability and capacity to government customers than any other previous contract while providing DigitalGlobe with long-term commitments and capital for its satellite development.

The NextView award to DigitalGlobe is a contract with a potential to award more than \$500 million over the period of performance of the contract. The contract allows NIMA early participation in the development cycle for the next generation of U.S. commercial satellite imaging capabilities. NextView moves beyond the commodity-based approach of commercial imagery acquisition and seeks to assure access, priority tasking rights, volume (area coverage) and broad licensing terms for sharing imagery with all potential mission partners. This contract will transform how NIMA provides geospatial intelligence by assuring availability of 0.5-meter commercial imagery.

Simultaneously, NIMA is pursuing further discussions with Space Imaging, LLC in Thornton, CO, regarding a contract to continue development of a follow-on system to provide NIMA an additional source to mitigate a potential commercial gap in availability of commercial imagery to support the geospatial mission.

"NIMA's NextView effort is a significant milestone for our Agency," said NIMA Director, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. James R. Clapper, Jr. "It represents NIMA's commitment toward guaranteeing our nation maintains a technological edge in satellite imagery technology. It also supports our ability to implement commercial remote sensing policies established by the President and the Director of Central Intelligence. NIMA relies on a robust commercial imagery capability to help fulfill its obligations in support of national defense, and we are pleased to have DigitalGlobe on the Geospatial Intelligence team and welcome further discussions with Space Imaging to further support our commercial imagery capability."

NIMA is a national intelligence and combat support agency whose mission is to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence in support of national security. Geospatial intelligence is the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth. Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., NIMA has major facilities in the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia and St. Louis, Mo., areas with NIMA support teams worldwide.

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