



# Overview of the HICO / HREP Program

Michael R. Corson Remote Sensing Division Naval Research Laboratory Washington, DC

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### Hyperspectral Environmental Characterization of the Coastal Zone

• Product retrievals use the spectral content of water-leaving radiance to identify and quantify the contents of the water column, identify the bottom type, and classify land areas



#### Coastal ocean scene

- In-water products
  - water optical properties
    - absorption  $a(\lambda)$
    - scattering  $b(\lambda)$
    - in-water visibility
  - bottom type
  - chlorophyll concentration
  - Colored Dissolved Organic Matter (CDOM)
  - Total Suspended Sediment (TSS)
  - bathymetry
- Land products
  - vegetation classification maps
  - soil classification maps
  - trafficability

# NRL Airborne Coastal Environmental Hyperspectral Program

• 20+ years end-to-end development of airborne environmental hyperspectral imaging



# Hyperspectral Imaging from Space is a Natural Next Step

• Space provides repeat access to coastal types worldwide



# Hyperspectral Imager for the Coastal Ocean (HICO)

#### The HICO opportunity

- Office of Naval Research sponsored HICO as an Innovative Naval Prototype (INP)
  - demonstrate new ability to meet naval needs
  - demonstrate ways to reduce cost and schedule of a space payload
- Space Test Program provided the launch to the International Space Station

#### HICO program requirements

- Launch and operate the first spaceborne coastal Maritime Hyperspectral Imager (MHSI) optimized for coastal environmental characterization
  - high signal-to-noise ratio and full coverage of water-penetrating wavelengths
  - large scene size and moderate spatial resolution appropriate for the coastal ocean
- Demonstrate scientific and naval utility of maritime hyperspectral imaging from space
  - bathymetry, water optical properties, bottom type, terrain and vegetation maps
  - demonstrate ways to reduce cost and schedule
- Serve as a pathfinder for future spaceborne hyperspectral imagers

#### HICO based on 20+ years of airborne hyperspectral imaging

- Proven imager architecture
- Vetted imager performance requirements
- Starting point for product algorithms

### **HICO Program and Pathfinder Opportunity**

- Summer 2006: Space Test Program asked if HICO could be ready for September 2009 launch to the ISS Japanese Kibo module – Exposed Facility
- Winter 2006-2007: HICO accommodation study for ISS
- March 2007: HICO manifested on Space Station ISS

Beginning of HICO Space Station project

- June 2007: Preliminary Design Review
- November 2007: Critical Design Review
- July 2008: HICO Test Readiness Review
- September 2008: HICO delivery for payload integration

Project start to sensor delivery in 16 months





HICO image of Bosporus Strait, October 11, 2009. Scene approximately 42 x 190 km.



HICO flight imager

### HICO INP Demonstrates Significant Cost and Schedule Savings

- HICO built using COTS components where possible
- Demonstrated a significant goal of the ONR Innovative Naval Prototype program

QImaging Rolera-MGi camera in hermetic enclosure (NRL TacSat heritage) Brandywine Optics Model 3035 spectrometer (two shown)



#### HICO Performance Specifications Based on Airborne Experience

Parameter	HICO Performance	Rationale
Architecture	Offner grating spectrometer, silicon FPA	Airborne heritage
Spectral Range	400 to 900 nm	Water-penetrating wavelengths plus Near IR for atmospheric correction
Spectral Readout	1.9 or 5.7 nm	Resolve coastal spectral features
Signal-to-Noise Ratio for water-penetrating wavelengths	> 200 to 1 for 5% albedo (10 nm spectral bins)	Provides adequate Signal to Noise Ratio after atmospheric removal
Polarization Sensitivity	< 5% (430-900 nm)	Insensitive to scene polarization
Ground Sample Distance at Nadir	92 m	Adequate for selected coastal ocean features
Scene Size	42 x 192 km	Capture the scale of coastal dynamics
Cross-track pointing	+ 45 to - 30 deg	Increase scene access frequency
Scenes per orbit	1 maximum	Data transmission constraints

#### Solid Model of HICO



### The HICO Flight Instrument



#### **HICO – RAIDS Experiment Payload**



scanner

temperature

The HICO - RAIDS Experiment Payload (HREP) is attached to the Japanese Kibo module – Exposed Facility



#### Blanketed HICO Inside the HREP Structure



#### **HREP** Launch and Robotic Attachment

Launched from Tanegashima Space Center, HTV payload module carrying HREP Japan, September 10, 2009, on Japanese HTV docked to Space Station September 17





HREP on Japanese Remote Manipulator arm



Photographs courtesy NASA



HREP docked to Japanese Exposed Facility September 24



#### HICO Docked to the Japanese Kibo Exposed Facility



### Inter-Satellite Comparison of Spatial Scale

- MODIS, MERIS, HICO data of Tampa Bay, Florida, October 20, 2009
  - Scene size approximately 25 x 30 km
- Processed to optical backscatter coefficient b<sub>b</sub> at 488 nm wavelength

MODIS Aqua (1 km) at 1915 GMT

MERIS (300 m) at 1556 GMT

HICO (95 m) at 1524 GMT



complex coastal features and monitoring coastal processes.Derived backscattering for all three sensors are consistent.

#### HICO High Signal to Noise Ratio for Dark Water Scenes Pusan, South Korea, 18 November 2009



#### **HICO** Calibration and Alignment at NRL



Integrating sphere radiometric sources standardized using a NIST-traceable lamp



Optical collimator system for alignment and focus

### HICO Commanding and Data Center at NRL

- HICO command scripts generated by science team based on orbit simulations
- Command scripts sent from NRL Payload Operations Control Center (POCC) to Huntsville Operations Support Center (HOSC) to Space Station
- Image and housekeeping data from Station are collected by the HOSC, sent to the NRL POCC



# Vicarious Calibration of HICO HICO Terra MODIS





# **Ocena Products Using Look-Up-Tables**

#### General Look-Up-Table Method

- Compute modeled water-leaving radiance for many (all expected) combinations of water depth, bottom type, and in-water parameters
- Store modeled spectra in look-up table
- For each water pixel in the scene, search the look-up table spectra to find the best match to the pixel spectrum
- The model parameters for the look-up table spectrum are assigned to the image pixel

#### Application of Look-Up-Table Method

- Parameters that are varied
  - Chlorophyll A
  - Other accessory pigments
  - CDOM slope and amount
  - Suspended sediments type and amount
  - Water depth range to 30 m, spacing increasing with depth
  - Bottom type many available, down selected for particular locations
  - Phase function
  - Turn on or off, Raman, Chl and CDOM fluorescenece
- How to determine best match is an ongoing research issue



#### **HICO Product Retrievals Using Multispectral Aalgorithms**



#### Summary

- HICO launched to the International Space Station on September 10, 2009
- Now using HICO coastal product retrievals to demonstrate the Naval utility of coastal hyperspectral environmental products from space
- Ready to distribute HICO data to the broader oceanographic community

