



December 31, 2007

Ms. Cindy Sessions

NAIP Partnership Coordinator

USDA - FSA

Aerial Photography Field Office

2222 West 2300 South

Salt Lake City UT 84119-2020

Subject: Joint Funding Partnership for 2008 Digital Aerial Photography

Dear Ms. Sessions:

The State of Minnesota is prepared to partner with the Farm Service Agency through its 2008 National Aerial Imagery Program. The imagery data products we expect to receive as a result of our joint-funding partnership agreement include 2008 digital aerial photography that adheres to the following specifications:

- Four-band multi-spectral imagery, including red, green, blue and infrared bands, all collected at a resolution of 1-meter;
- Imagery orthorectified using ground controlled absolute accuracy techniques;
- Compressed County Mosaics (CCM) for each of Minnesota's 87 counties in a format to be negotiated before delivery (i.e. MrSID or JPEG 2000);
- All full resolution Digital Orthorectified Quarter Quadrangle (DOQQ) tiles comprising the entire land surface area of the state delivered in uncompressed GEOTIFF format;
- Metadata compliant with current CSDSM standards.

As was done in 2003, the State requests that a spring "leaf-off" date window be selected for portions of the state where agricultural development is largely absent, representing a region of Northeastern Minnesota that includes Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis Counties. To the fullest extent possible terrain characteristics shall include: no snow cover, ice-free lakes, dormant perennial vegetation, non-flood conditions.

The State is prepared to make the following commitments as its contribution to an Interagency Agreement with the FSA:

- A firm cash commitment of \$400,000.00. (There is the potential for additional funding, but those commitments will not be known until late spring 2008);
- In-kind contributions that include:
 - 100 absolute control target points distributed around the state and detailed locational specifications provided to FSA;

- An ongoing effort to work with county surveyors in Minnesota to densify that target network with a goal of increasing the number of control points to as many as 400;
- A commitment to process all DOQQ tiles into a single data file and expose that file to potential users through a Web Mapping Service (WMS) providing web-browser viewing and data clipping services (existing services currently provide data access services for 2003 and 2006 NAIP imagery¹)
- A commitment to serve CCM data sets via an FTP server as is currently provided for 2003 NAIP imagery².

Through this letter the State understands that it is committing these resources to the National Aerial Photography Program during the 2008 program period and that a formal contract with the FSA must be signed by the State by January 31, 2008 to begin the contracting process. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me or the project manager, Christopher Cialek (phone 651.201.2481; email: chris.cialek@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



David Arbeit, Ph.D.
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¹ See http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/chouse/wms_image_server_description.html for a description of GDA's OGC-compliant WMS image server. Raster data viewing and clipping services can be found at: <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/chouse/northstarmapper.html>

² 2003 NAIP CCM files are downloadable at: <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/chouse/naip03mrsid.html>