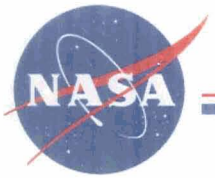


Stennis Space Center

# NASA Radiometric Characterization

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**High Spatial Resolution Commercial Imagery Workshop**
**Reston, Virginia, USA**
**November 9, 2004**

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# Outline



- Characterization Overview
  - Vicarious Calibration
  - MODTRAN
- Ground Truth Data Collection
  - Stennis Space Center, MS
  - Brookings, SD
- Data Processing Methods
  - Data Processing for MODTRAN
- QuickBird Characterization
  - Data Collections
  - Results
- OrbView-3 Characterization
  - Data Collections
  - Results

# Characterization Overview



- Objective
  - Perform radiometric vicarious calibrations of imagery and compare with vendor-provided calibration coefficients
- Approach
  - Use multiple, well-characterized sites
    - Sites widely used by the NASA science community for radiometric characterization of airborne and spaceborne sensors
  - Perform independent characterizations with independent teams. Each team has slightly different measurement techniques and data processing methods.
    - NASA Stennis Space Center
    - University of Arizona Remote Sensing Group
    - South Dakota State University (provided ground-truth data)

# Data Providers



- DigitalGlobe, Inc.
  - Imagery acquired by the QuickBird sensor
  - Data purchased by NASA through the Scientific Data Purchase project
  - Independent characterization is a continuation of the previous year
- OSC/ORBIMAGE, Inc.
  - Imagery acquired by the OrbView-3 sensor
  - Data received through a Space Act Agreement among NASA, Orbital Sciences Corporation, and ORBIMAGE, Inc.
  - Independent characterization performed on pre-initial on-orbit checkout (pre-IOC) data

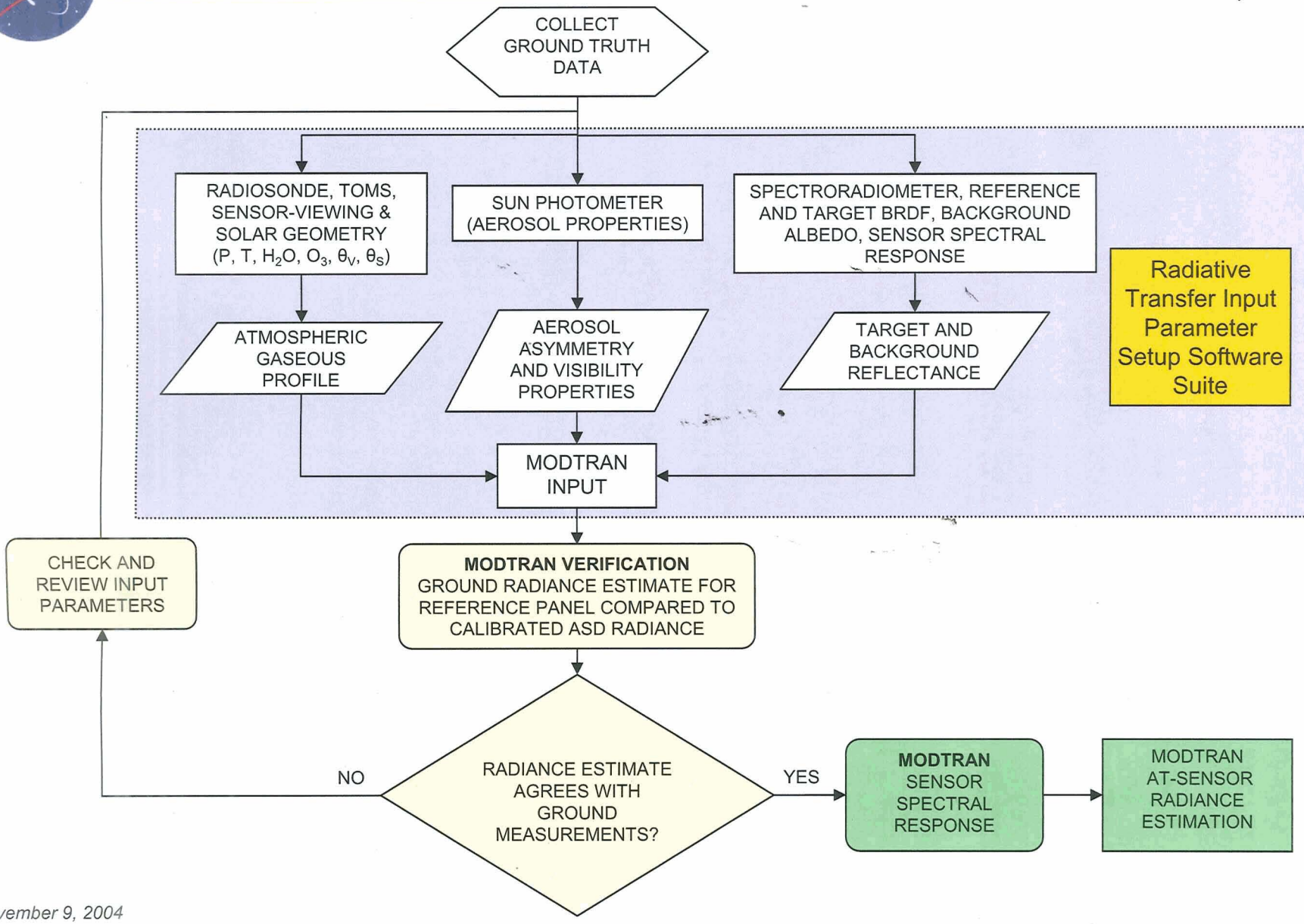
# Vicarious Calibration Method



- Reflectance-based approach
  - Ground truth collection
    - Characterize target reflectance at time of satellite overpass
      - Measurements taken of target area and a 99% reflectance Spectralon® panel (Jackson BRDF model)
      - Laboratory measurements of target BRDF
    - Characterize atmosphere at time of satellite overpass
      - Radiosonde data used to determine Rayleigh scattering and water vapor extinction
      - Least squares fit of sun photometer data to determine model atmosphere parameters
  - Use MODTRAN radiative transport code to predict at-sensor radiance
  - Compare predicted at-sensor radiance to actual radiance acquired by sensor

# At-Sensor Radiance Prediction Method

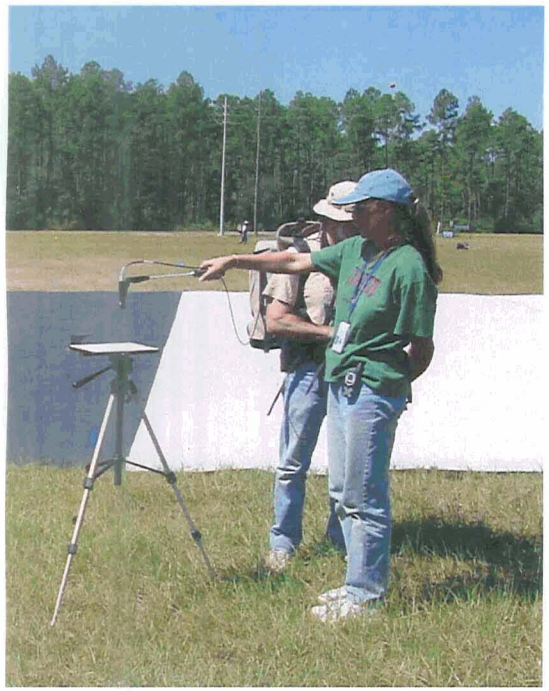


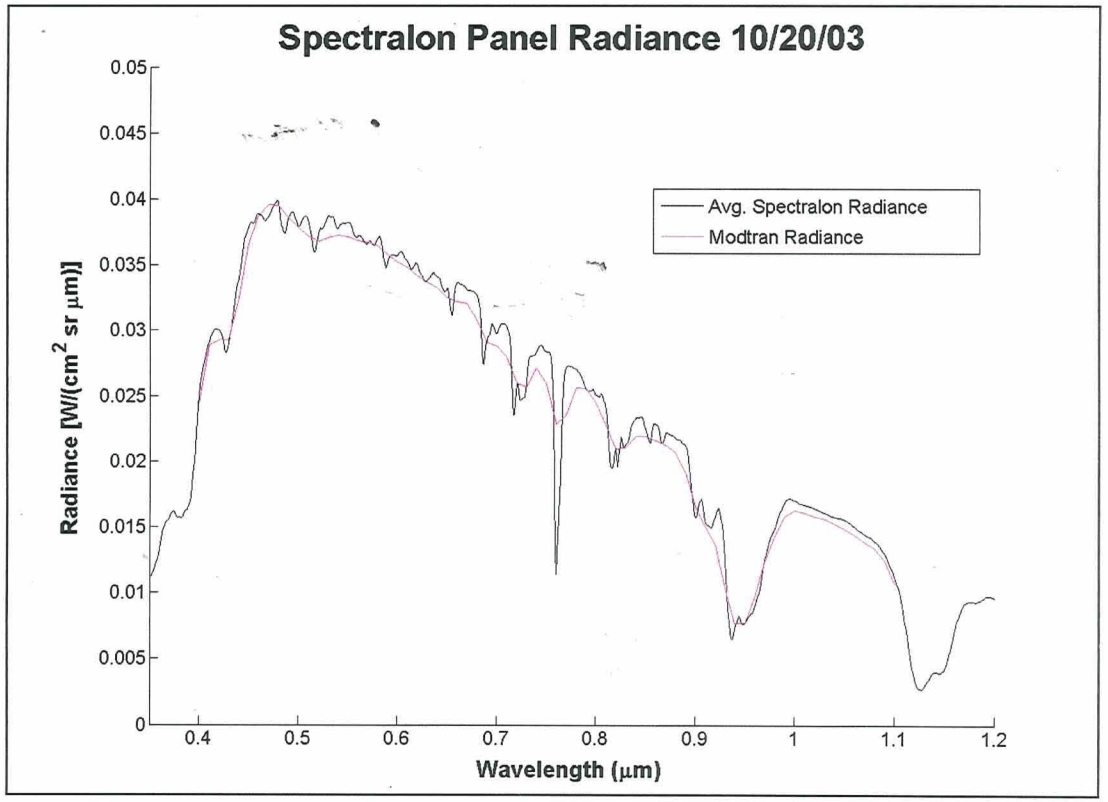


# Comparison to Spectralon Panel



- Verification of parameters used to generate MODTRAN at-sensor radiance estimate
  - Measuring the radiance of Spectralon panel with a well-calibrated spectroradiometer is a way of measuring atmospheric global and diffuse irradiance
  - Use ground truth data and geometry modeling an ASD FieldSpec FR spectroradiometer measuring a 99% reflectance Spectralon panel as input to MODTRAN to predict radiance
  - Compare MODTRAN-calculated radiance to actual radiance measured from Spectralon panel to verify the atmospheric model





# Ground Truth Data Collections



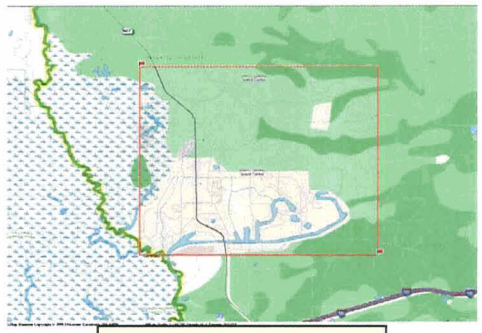
- Ground truth data collection occurred at five sites over the 2003-2004 season
  - Data collections by University of Arizona (described in previous presentation)
    - White Sands Missile Range, NM
    - Ivanpah Playa, CA
    - Railroad Valley, NV
  - Data collections by NASA
    - Stennis Space Center, MS (SSC)
  - Data collections by South Dakota State University
    - Brookings, SD

# NASA Stennis Space Center, MS

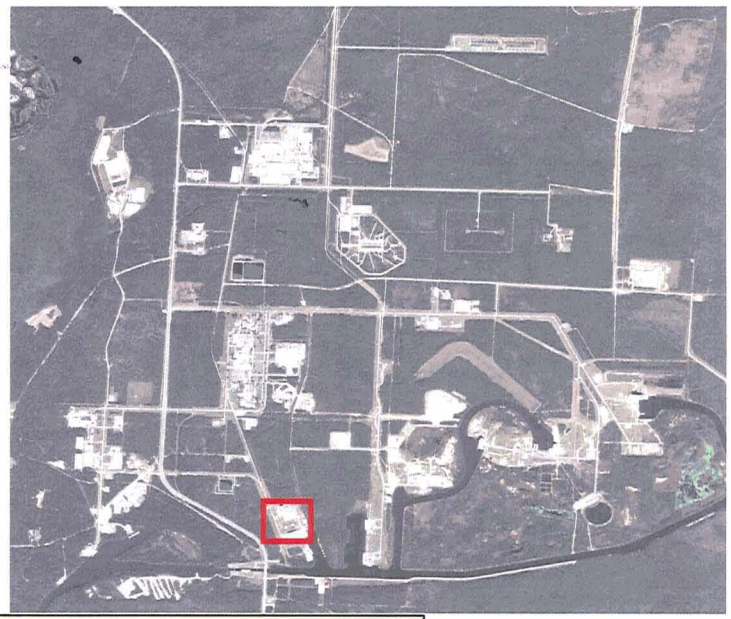


- **Site:** Scattered buildings within a heavily wooded area; manmade reservoirs and canals
- **Elevation:** 5.5–10 m
- **Centerpoint:** 30.356° N, 89.62° W
- ***In-situ* Instrumentation:** Analytical Spectral Devices FieldSpec FR spectroradiometers, Yankee multifilter rotating shadowband radiometers (MFRSRs), automated solar radiometers (ASRs), Sippican radiosonde, full sky imager, 20-m x 20-m radiometric tarps, 99% reflectance Spectralon panels

General Scene



SSC Image Area
8.5 km x 8 km

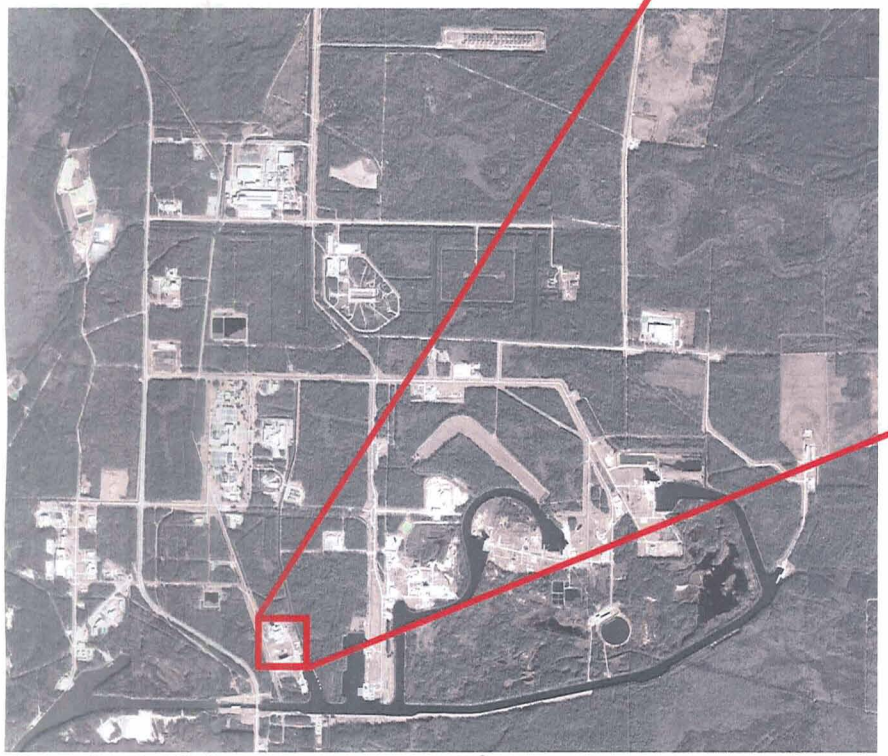


OrbView-3 True-Color Imagery
September 28, 2003

# NASA SSC Target Field



QuickBird image acquired
January 10, 2004
True-Color Pan-Sharpened



# Radiometric Tarps



- Four 20-m x 20-m tarps with reflectance values of approximately 3.5%, 22%, 34%, and 52% within spectral measurement range
- Peak-to-peak variation in reflectance less than 10% within any 100-nm spectral band within spectral measurement range
- Less than 10% variation in reflectance values when measuring tarps from 10° to 60° off axis within spectral measurement range
- Spectral measurement range of 400 to 1050 nm
- Each side is straight to within ±6.0 cm over the 20-m length
- Each tarp has 60 square witness samples measuring 30.5 cm x 30.5 cm

# ASD FieldSpec FR Spectroradiometer Measurements

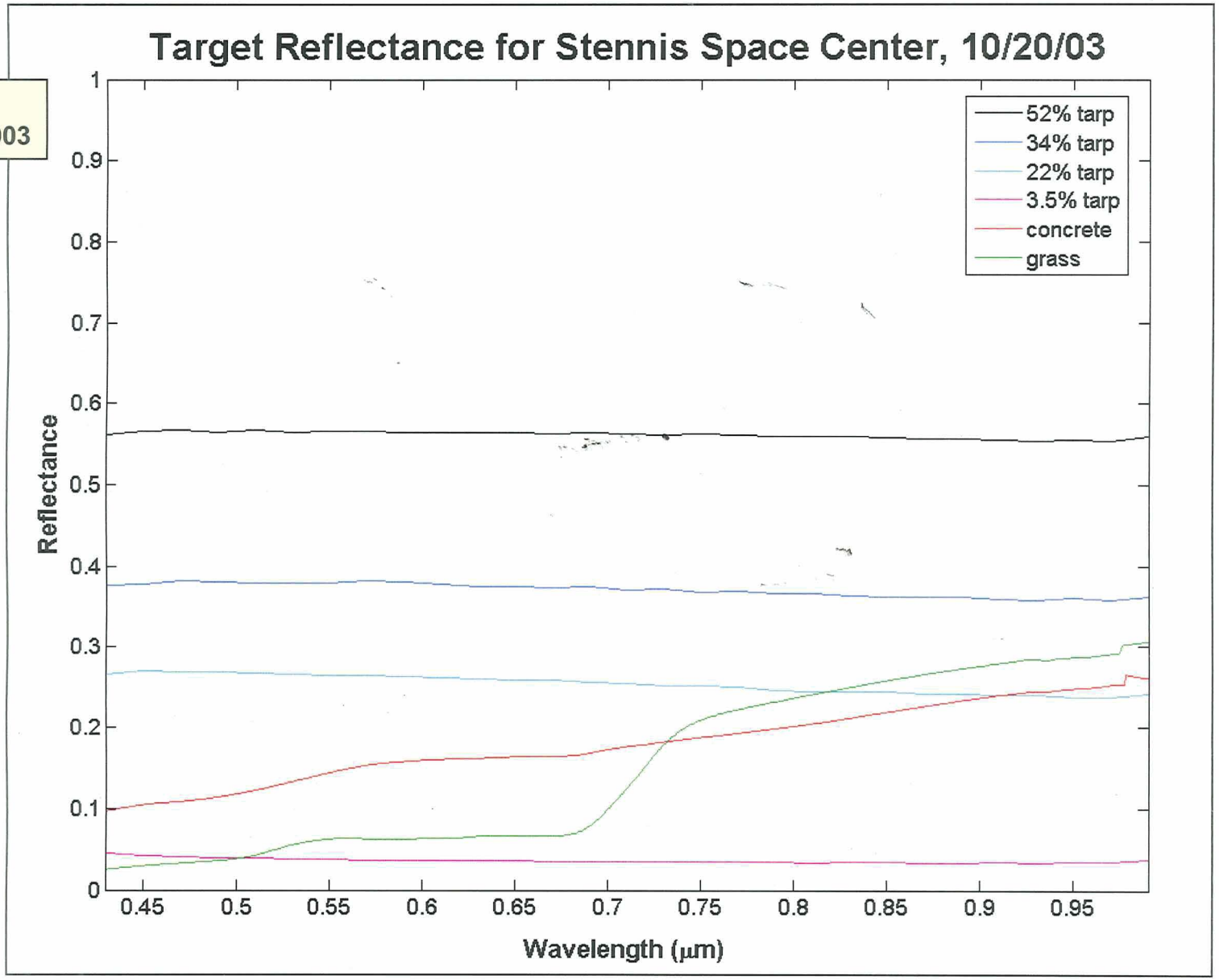


- Measurements of several target areas were taken
  - ~35-m x 15-m area of a grassy field
  - ~30-m x 20-m area of a concrete parking lot
  - Up to four 20-m x 20-m radiometric tarps (3.5%, 22%, 34%, and 52% reflectance)
- Measurements were taken along transect lines (grass and concrete) or tarp perimeter
  - All measurements were taken while walking to increase spatial averaging
  - Periodic Spectralon panel measurements were taken
  - ASD FieldSpec FR spectroradiometer optimization and dark current measurements were taken before and during target measurements.
- All data were acquired within 30 minutes of satellite overpass

# Spectroradiometer Data



NASA SSC
October 20, 2003



# Atmospheric Measurements

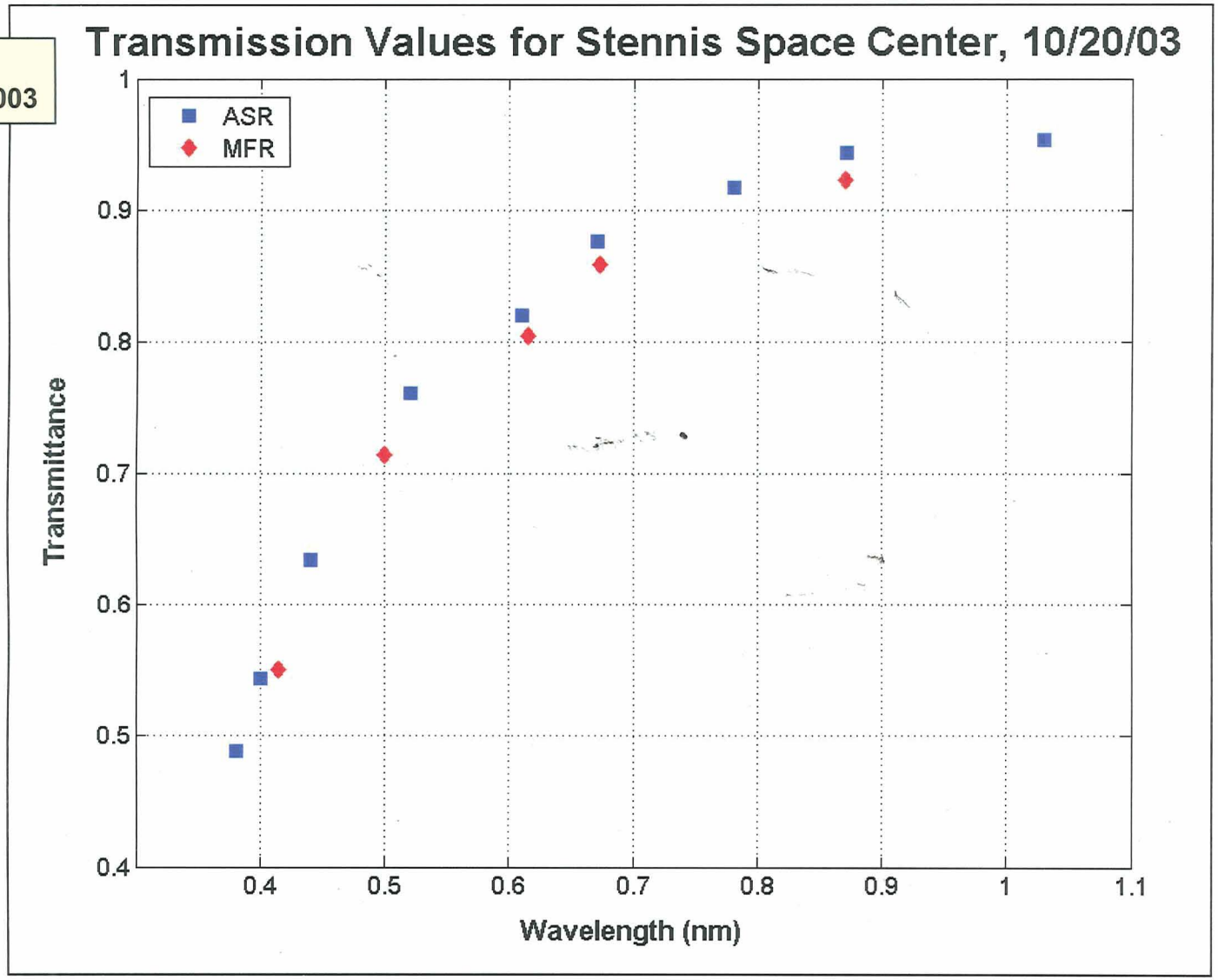


- Solar irradiance data collected from early morning through post-sensor acquisition
  - One MFRSR and one ASR acquired data from the measurement field
  - One MFRSR acquired data from a building rooftop approximately 2 miles away
- Radiosonde launched near satellite overpass time
  - Data acquired up to 3 km on 9/28/03
  - Data acquired over 20 km on 10/20/03 and on 1/10/04

# ASR/MFRSR Transmission Values



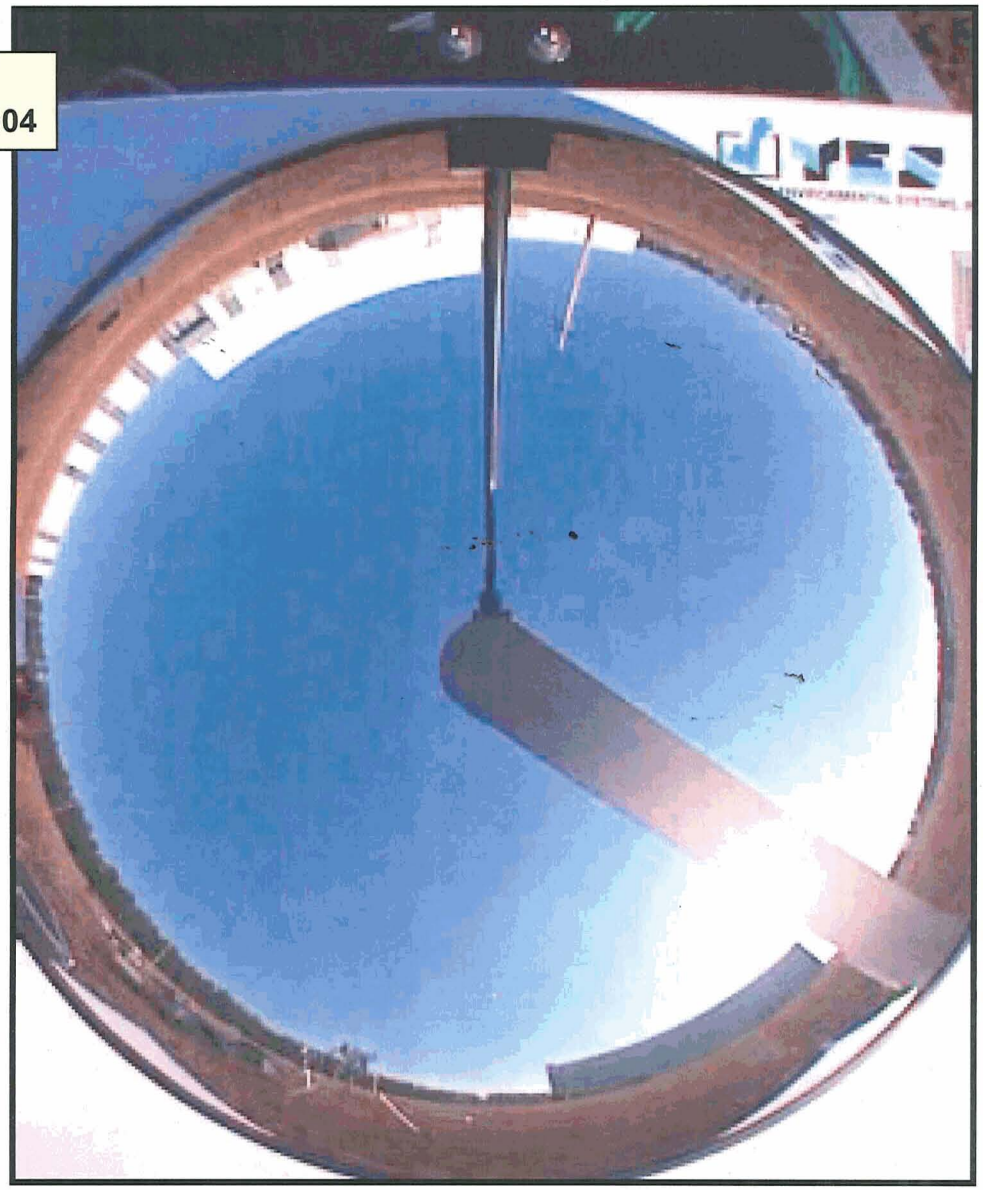
NASA SSC
October 20, 2003



# Full Sky Imager



NASA SSC
January 10, 2004

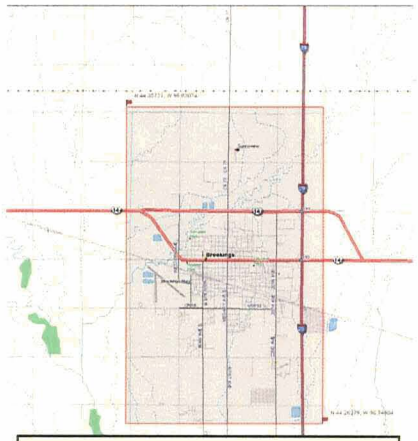


# Brookings, South Dakota

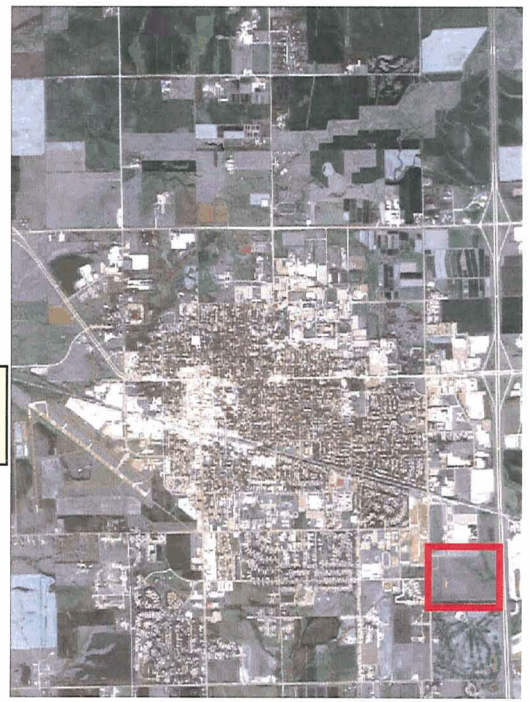


- **Site:** Grass field beside 3M plant on the outskirts of the city of Brookings
- **Elevation:** approx. 500 m
- **Centerpoint:** 44.3° N, 96.8° W
- ***In-Situ* Instrumentation:** ASD FieldSpec FR spectroradiometers, Yankee MFRSRs, automated solar radiometer, 20-m x 20-m radiometric tarps, 99% reflectance Spectralon panels

General Scene



Brookings Image Area
6.5 km x 10.5 km

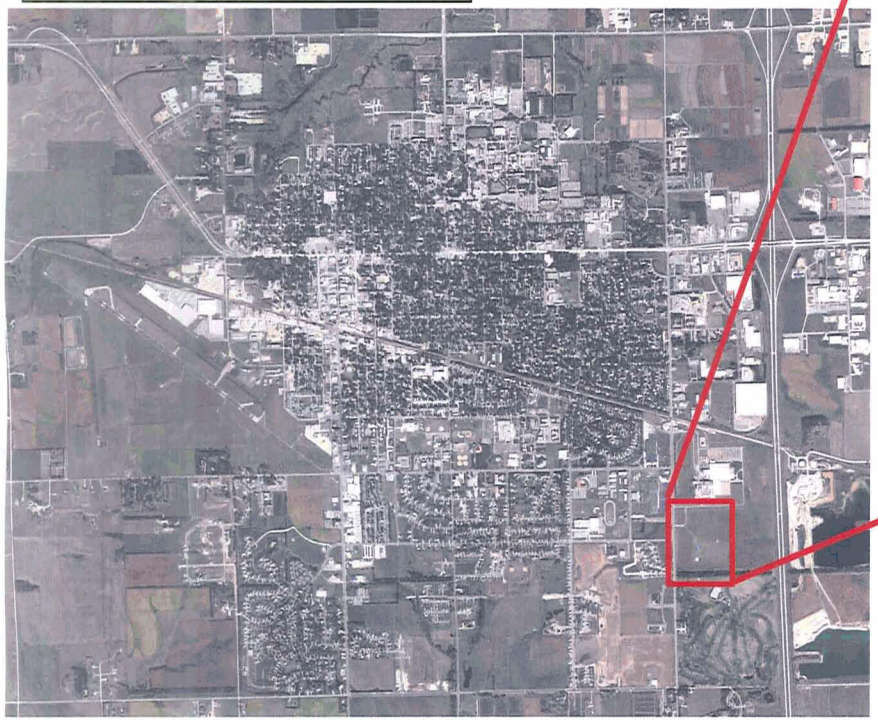


QuickBird Imagery
August 23, 2003

# Brookings, SD, Target Field



QuickBird image acquired
September 15, 2003
True-Color Pan-Sharpened



# ASD FieldSpec FR Spectroradiometer Measurements

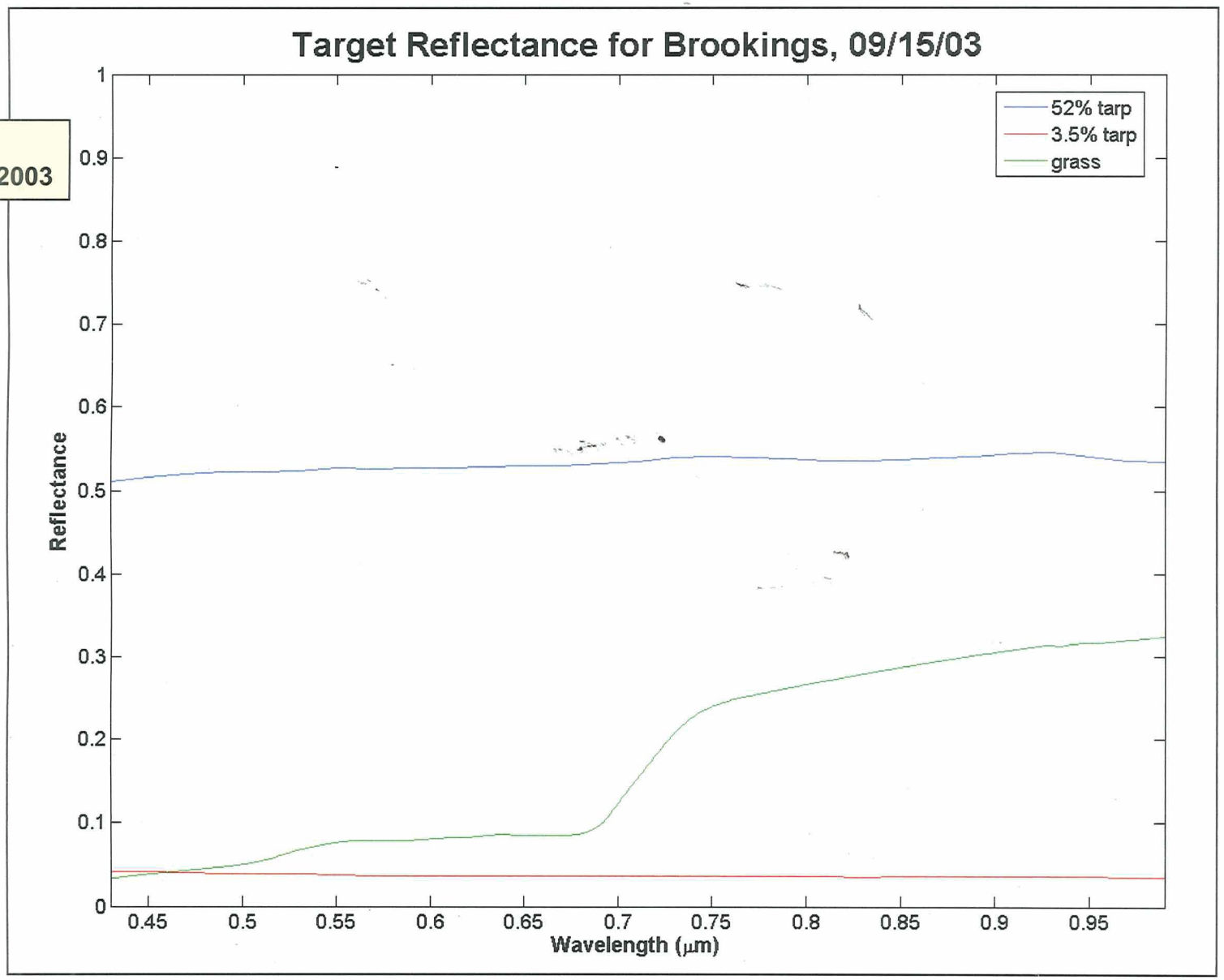


- ASD FieldSpec FR spectroradiometer measurements of several targets were taken
  - ~150-m x 150-m area of a grassy field
  - Two 20-m x 20-m radiometric tarps (3.5% and 52% reflectance) for the 9/15/03 collect
- Measurements were taken along transect lines (grass) or tarp perimeter
  - All measurements were taken while walking to increase spatial averaging
  - Periodic Spectralon panel measurements were taken
  - Before and during target measurements, the instrument was optimized and dark current measurements were made
- All data were acquired within 30 minutes of satellite overpass

# Spectroradiometer Data



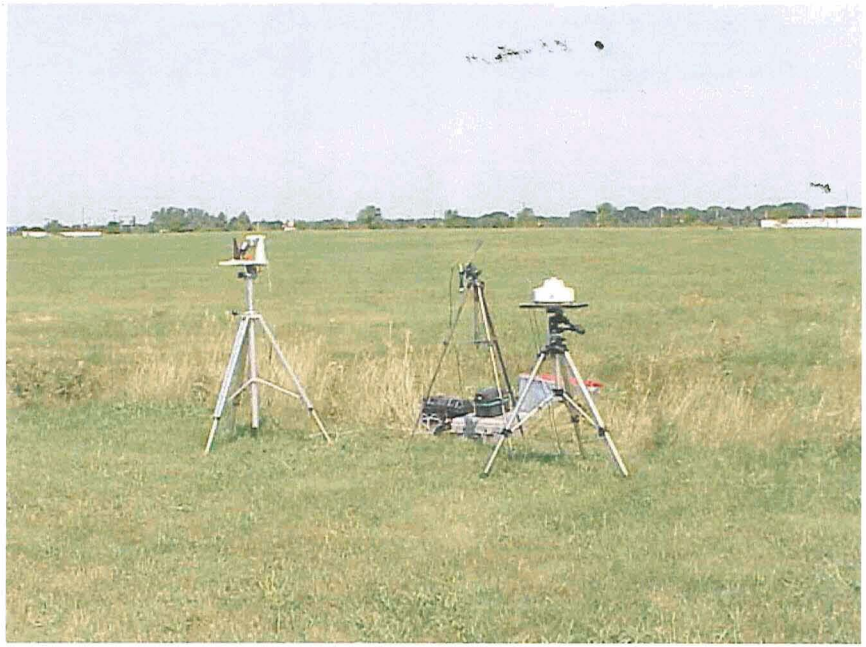
Brookings, SD
September 15, 2003



# Atmospheric Measurements



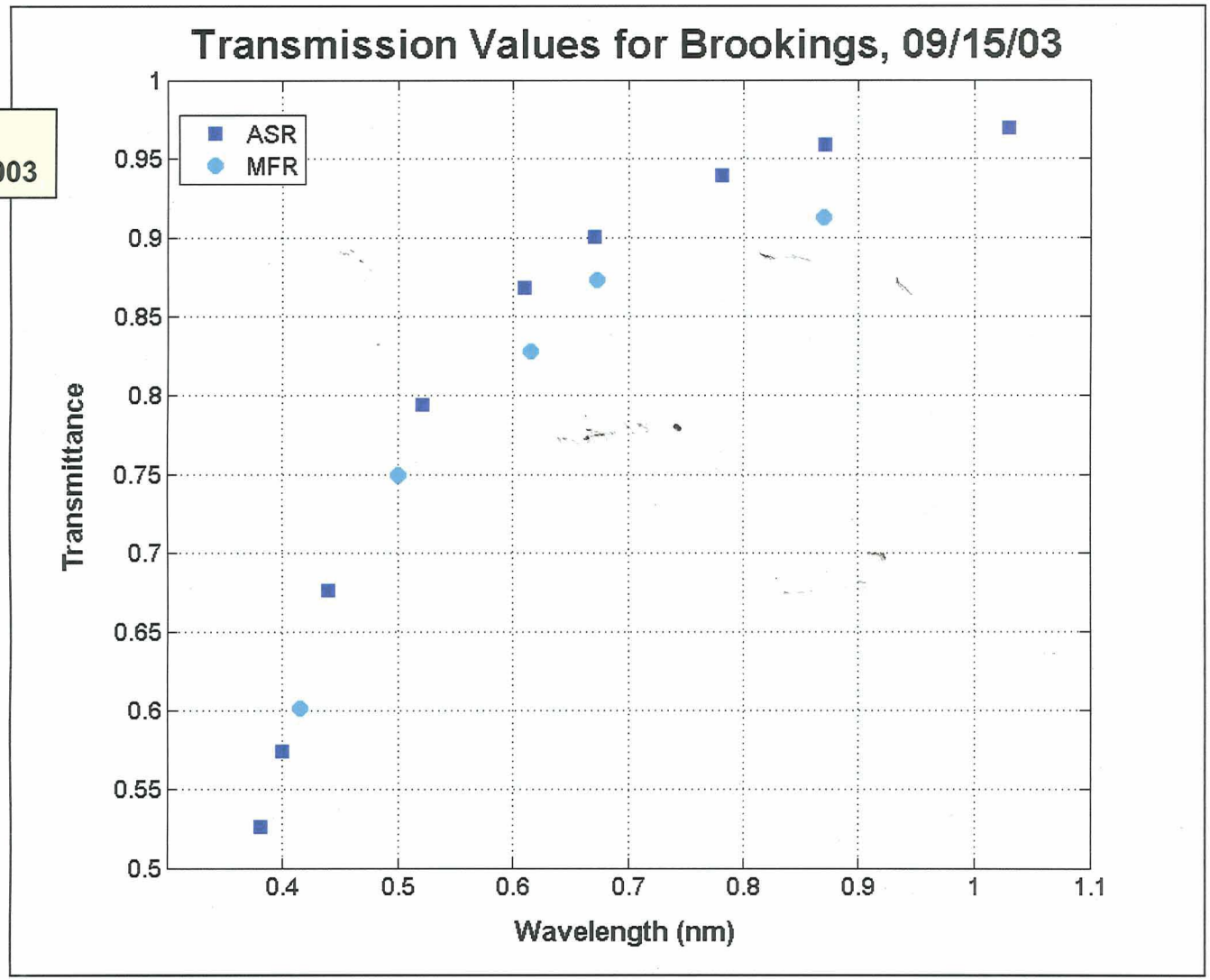
- Solar irradiance data collected from early morning through post-sensor acquisition
  - Two MFRSRs acquired data in the measurement field
  - One ASR was used on 8/23/03; two ASRs were used on 9/15/03 and on 10/20/03 to acquire data in the measurement field



# ASR/MFRSR Transmission Values



Brookings, SD
September 15, 2003



# Additional Data Processing

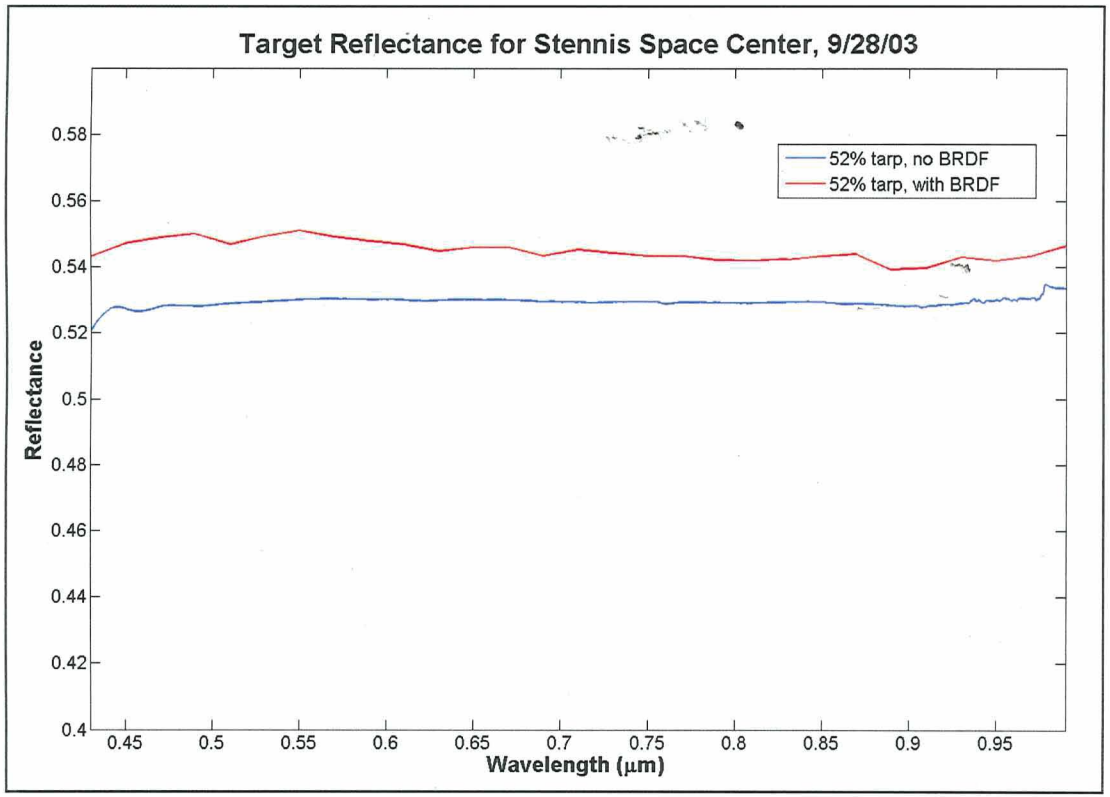


- Data processing to calculate additional MODTRAN input parameters
  - Incorporation of laboratory-measured target BRDF
  - Estimation of visibility
  - Estimation of aerosol asymmetry

# BRDF Correction



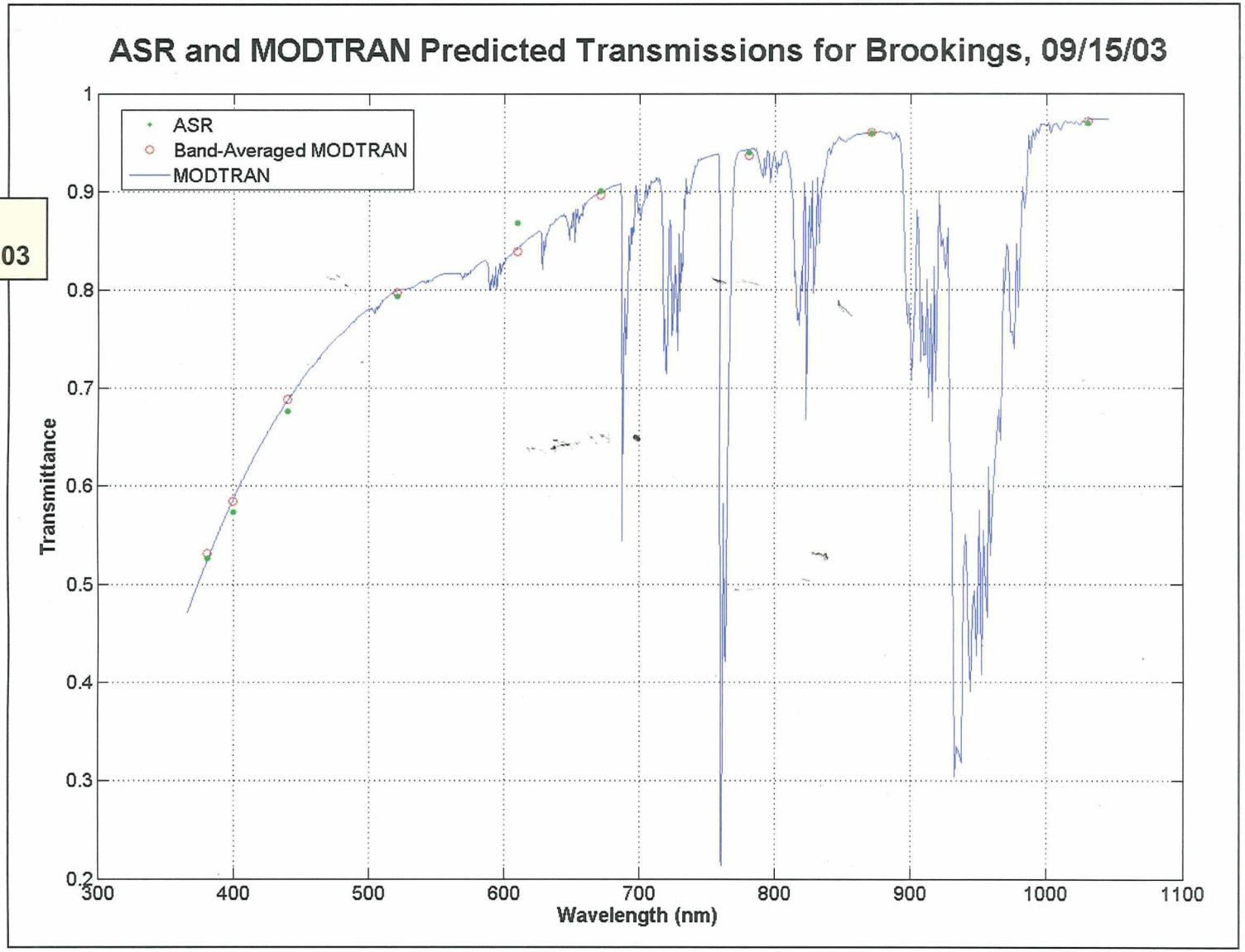
- BRDF of radiometric tarp witness samples measured in laboratory
  - Witness samples removed from tarps after ground truth data collection
  - Sun and satellite geometry recreated in the laboratory to determine BRDF correction factors for each radiometric tarp
- Calculated correction factors incorporated into reflectance data files



# Visibility Estimation



**Brookings, SD**
**September 15, 2003**



# Aerosol Scattering



- The asymmetry factor for the aerosol scattering phase function is estimated by comparing MODTRAN output diffuse-to-global ratio values to MFRSR measured diffuse-to-global ratio values