



Rutherford Appleton Laboratory - AATSR

Global sea surface temperature is one of the most important geophysical parameters required for climate research. Many climate phenomena are associated with very small changes in sea-surface temperature over large geographic scales. Research into the Earth's climate requires long term, accurate measurements of sea-surface temperature on a global scale.

The AATSR series of satellites allows for the remote determination of sea-surface temperature to unprecedented levels of accuracy (typically 0.3 K). The "Advanced ATSR" is the third in the series of satellite instruments which contains several enhancements and will shortly be deployed to join ATSR-2 which is currently in orbit, thereby extending the data base into the next millennium. The data taken since 1991 with the ATSR series of instruments is now providing new insights into the behaviour of our global environment.

The contract to build a Reference Processor to analyse the Advanced ATSR data was awarded to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, and Tessella has been involved in assisting with the coding of this Processor. The code is written in C to run on a SUN workstation, and makes use of code from a VAX system developed for the earlier ATSR-2 instrument.

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