COVID-19 PANDEMIC

THE CORONAVIRUS, or Covid-19, pandemic has had a devastating impact around the world since the first outbreak in Wuhan, China (coincidentally one of the primary centres of Chinese photogrammetry) late in 2019. At that time, nobody could have foreseen the unprecedented effect on activities all around our planet. As I write this, I am still in a “lockdown” situation and I cannot foresee the status when this issue is published. Indeed, the issue may be delayed due to the reduced number of healthy personnel available to produce the issue.

The Photogrammetric Record apologises that the March 2020 issue of the journal went to press before many of the geomatics and photogrammetric conferences had finally been postponed or cancelled. Many, including the committee for the 24th ISPRS Congress intended to be held in June 2020 in Nice, only postponed their events when the seriousness of the pandemic was evident and when international travel had almost halted, with little prospect of a rapid resumption of activities.

This issue is therefore withdrawing reference to all planned events, save the ISPRS Congress which has been rescheduled for July 2021 in Nice. Our thoughts go out to all our professional colleagues who have suffered, or even sadly died, during this pandemic. We trust we will all learn from the current tragedy and that we can resume the exchange of our scientific research as soon as it is safe to do so.

XXIVTH ISPRS INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, NICE 2021

THE XXIVTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) is planned to be held in Nice, France from Sunday 4th July 2021 until Saturday 10th July 2021, following a postponement from June 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Each day from Monday to Saturday will begin with a plenary session, with world-class keynote speakers, followed by up to six parallel sessions as follows:

(1) Scientific track. Core scientific programme based around the five ISPRS Technical Commissions (TCs) and their working groups (WGs). Each TC will have its specific track every day, running in parallel with the other TCs.

(2) Forum track. Interactions between science, public organisations, industry and decision-makers. Designed to build collective visions and/or roadmaps for the geospatial community.

(3) Technology track. During the primary industrial exhibition (5th to 7th July 2021), this track will be devoted to presentations by sponsors and exhibitors. Over the final three days, presentations of scientific technologies, products, services and platforms will be by academics.