isprs 2026 TORONTO

XXV ISPRS CONGRESS

TORONTO, CANADA | 4-11 JULY 2026

FROM IMAGERY TO UNDERSTANDING

2026 AWARDS AND CITATIONS

isprs

HOSTED BY

Canadian Remote Sensing Society
Société Canadienne de Télédétection

CONTENTS

ISPRS

CRSS-SCT

ISPRS HONORARY MEMBER

An individual is elected as an ISPRS Honorary Member in recognition of distinguished services to the ISPRS and its aims. Honorary Members shall be nominated by a committee composed of members from the current and three previous Councils, and elected by the Congress. There may not be more than ten living Honorary Members of the Society at any given time. The Committee has nominated Christian Heipke and Charles Toth for election as Honorary Members of ISPRS in 2026.

Christian Heipke

Christian Heipke is a globally respected academic in photogrammetry and remote sensing and computer vision with an exceptional scholarly record. For the last four decades he has been working at the forefront of automatic image orientation, 3D scene reconstruction and image analysis; he has been a pioneer of automatic aerial triangulation and automatic topographic database update from aerial and satellite imagery.

Equally important, he has been a tireless volunteer and advocate for the photogrammetry and remote sensing community. His contributions to ISPRS are unparalleled in modern times, and his long-standing service and leadership have been truly extraordinary.

Since 1998 Christian Heipke has been a Professor and Head of the Institute of Photogrammetry and GeoInformation, Leibniz Universität Hannover, where he leads a group of about 25 scientists and PhD candidates. He has supervised nearly 50 PhD theses and is an author or co-author of more than 500 scientific papers, more than 150 of which were published in peer-reviewed journals.

He was visiting professor and researcher at various institutes including Department of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Technical University Munich, Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering, The Ohio State University, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and IGN-MATIS Research Laboratory, Paris.

He studied geodetic science at University of Hannover, University of New South Wales, Sydney, and Technical University Munich, where he also received a PhD degree in 1990 and a Habilitation and Venia Legendi degree in 1994.

He is a member of various national and international learned societies and has been honoured with multiple prestigious awards including the Otto von Gruber Award, ISPRS (1992); Duane C. Brown Award, The Ohio State University (1995); Frederick J. Doyle Award, ISPRS (2012), Photogrammetric (Fairchild) Award, ASPRS (2013), Ordem do Merito Cartografico (Comendador), Brazilian Society of Cartography (2015); Albrecht Meydenbauer Medal, DGPF (2022), Honorary Fellowship, Indian Society for Remote Sensing (2023), Honorary Doctorate, University of Stuttgart (2023), Honorary Membership, Indonesian Society for Remote Sensing (2025) along with multiple Best Paper and Best Poster Awards at international conferences.

Prof. Christian Heipke has continuously served on ISPRS Working Groups since 1988 and on ISPRS Council since 2012. His most important contributions during his tenure on Council

were: he has led the Society as president from 2016 - 2022, keeping the Society intact in the critical time of the Corona pandemic; he was instrumental in reorganizing the ISPRS Technical Commissions during his term as Secretary General (2012-2016) and the Council during his presidency; was the corresponding author of the ISPRS research agenda which was published in the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in 2016; has revitalized the cooperation with the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society, which led to many successful meetings in Latin America, the most recent one being LAGIRS 2025 in Foz do Iguaçu; has initiated the ISPRS program to support authors of open access papers who cannot afford the related Author Processing Charges; has represented ISPRS at numerous international events and given key notes at a large number of scientific meetings within our field, thus ensuring that ISPRS keeps its reputation of a respectable scientific society; has initiated and chaired the ISPRS Hannover series of workshops focusing on high resolution imagery for geospatial information, between 1998 and 2017.

With his humorous and diplomatic personality, and his dedication to the aims and the activities of the Society, he has positively shaped the future of the Society during his terms of office in Council from 2012 to 2026.

Charles Toth

Charles Toth is a Research Professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, where he directs the Center for Accurate Georeferencing the Environment (CAGE), an NSF- and industry-sponsored three-university consortium, and also serves as the director of the Satellite Positioning and Inertial Navigation Laboratory (SPIN Lab). He is a world-renowned expert in photogrammetry, geomatics, positioning and navigation, sensors, and mobile mapping technologies.

Throughout his esteemed career, he has been deeply committed to supporting ISPRS, beginning in 1990 when he attended his first ISPRS Symposium. Starting from 1996, he chaired several working groups over multiple terms, later serving as President of Technical Commission I, Sensors and Platforms for Remote Sensing (2012–2016), and as Vice President of ISPRS (2016–2022). He currently chairs ISAC, the ISPRS International Science Advisory Committee. Over more than 30 years of exceptional service to the Society, his leadership, combined with his outstanding scientific contributions to the field, has earned him the highest respect within the ISPRS community. He is also one of the founding members of Mobile Mapping Technology (MMT), and since the mid-1990s he has been involved in organizing all of the biennial International Symposia on MMT, most often under the umbrella of ISPRS.

A native of Hungary, Charles Toth received an M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) in 1977. Before joining BME as an Assistant Professor, he worked in biomedical and geophysical image processing, earning his first Ph.D. in 1980. He later completed a second Ph.D. at BME in 1997, this time in geospatial information science.

He first came to The Ohio State University in 1987, joining the OSU Center for Mapping as a postdoctoral researcher. In the years that followed, he was at the forefront of research on emerging digital imaging technologies and became the key architect behind the concept development and implementation of the first Mobile Mapping System (MMS), one of the earliest civilian applications of the Global Positioning System (GPS). In the late 1990s, he led an Ohio State research team in the ground-breaking Airborne Integrated Mapping System (AIMS) project, which produced the world's first fully digital, directly georeferenced, high-accuracy airborne mapping system prototype. The system integrated a 4K × 4K digital camera with GPS and an inertial navigation unit (IMU) in a tightly coupled configuration. This technology saw its first major commercial deployment during the Ground Zero emergency mapping operations following the September 11, 2001 attack in New York City, providing critical feedback that helped refine the entire workflow. He also served as the lead mapping expert supporting navigation assisted by mapping technologies for the OSU team in the three DARPA Grand and Urban Challenges, the landmark events that launched the autonomous-driving era. He was an early advocate for leveraging complex geospatial data, such as terrain models and imagery, to enhance vehicle navigation, improve localization, and strengthen scene understanding. This work helped lay the foundation for modern HD (high definition) maps, now essential components of assisted and autonomous driving technologies. To this day, he is recognized worldwide for his contributions to advancing MMS technology

and its applications, and he is widely credited with coining the terms “direct” and “indirect” georeferencing.

He has an extensive publication record with more than 450 scientific papers to his name and has supervised a large number of master’s and Ph.D. students at both OSU and BME. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the ASPRS Fairchild Award (2009), Fellowship of ASPRS (2019), Fellowship of ISPRS (2020), Fellowship of the Institute of Navigation (2022), an Honorary Doctorate from BME (2023), and the ASPRS Lifetime Achievement Award (2025).

ISPRS FELLOWSHIPS

An ISPRS Fellow is elected by the Society in recognition of sustained, excellent service to the ISPRS and its aims. The following persons have been nominated to receive the ISPRS Fellowship 2026.

Naser El-Sheimy

Naser El-Sheimy has been Professor, and former Head of the Department of Geomatics Engineering, University of Calgary since 1998, as well as Senior Tier-I Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Mobile Multi-sensor Systems and former Scientific Director of TECTERRA Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research. He received his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and M.S. degree in Surveying Engineering from Ain Shams University, Egypt in 1984 and 1990, respectively, followed by a post-graduate diploma in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing from ITC, The Netherlands, and his Ph.D. in Geomatics Engineering from the University of Calgary, Canada in 1996. He has provided sustained, outstanding service to ISPRS and is one of the principal architects of modern mobile mapping and direct georeferencing.

Nasar has published two books, six book chapters and over 500 articles in academic journals and conference proceedings. His pioneering research on VISAT, the first commercial mobile mapping system, on GNSS/INS integration, and on micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS)-based navigation systems has shaped the evolution of mobile mapping from its early days to today's autonomous vehicle and high-definition (HD) mapping era. His ISPRS-related publications span fundamental algorithms for mobile mapping and object extraction, sensor-fusion architectures, and recent contributions on LiDAR/GNSS/INS localization in urban canyons and HD map updating for infrastructure management. Nasar is an entrepreneur who led the establishment of the TECTERRA Research Center, as well as three companies including Micro Engineering Group and Profound Positioning, Inc., a leading company in navigation technologies.

A pillar of ISPRS Commission I activities since the 1990s, he progressed from young author and session chair to WG Chair, and to President of ISPRS Technical Commission I (2008–2012). In these roles he not only advanced the Commission's scientific agenda on sensors and platforms but also worked relentlessly to build bridges with FIG and IAG, leading to the now-established joint Mobile Mapping (MMT) symposium series that rotates globally and is recognized as a flagship ISPRS event. He has served as organizer or co-organizer of more than a dozen MMT symposia and ISPRS-related workshops across four continents, including serving as the Conference Director of ISPRS Geospatial Week 2023. Currently the Editor-in-Chief of the Geomatics journal, and an Associate Editor of the ION Navigation Journal, he is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, Engineering Institute of Canada, and the Institute of Navigation (ION). His honours include the Outstanding Achievement Award in Mobile Mapping Technology (MMT 2015), the ISPRS Samuel Gamble Award (2016), ASTech "Leadership in Alberta Technology" Award and 2024 ASTech Outstanding Digital Innovation – Research Award, City of Calgary International Achievement Award (2024). He is a member of the Chinese 1000 Talents Program, which recognizes outstanding global scientific leaders.

Senthil Kumar

Senthil Kumar is an expert in spaceborne sensor characterization, image processing, and geophysical product development from remote sensing data. He was Director of the Geophysical and Special Products Group with the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), Hyderabad and Director of the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun where he led research, instruction and outreach programs in remote sensing. He received a M.Sc. degree in Engineering and a Ph.D. in Image Processing from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1985 and 1990, respectively. He also obtained a M.Sc. degree in Applied Science from Anna University, Madras in 1981.

During his career, Senthil made important contributions to Indian satellite remote sensing, promoted international capacity building and provided sustained service to ISPRS. He published over 115 journal articles and was co-author of books entitled, Fuzzy Machine Learning Algorithms for Remote Sensing Image Classification in 2020 and Remote Sensing of Northwest Himalayan Ecosystem in 2018. Senthil demonstrated excellent interpersonal and managerial skills in working environments such as Earth observation systems and services. As Director of the IIRS from 2015-2018, he guided research on UAV remote sensing, 3D GIS modelling of archaeological monuments, dust-storm forecasting modelling using satellite imagery and data assimilation and remote sensing of the Northwest Himalayan ecosystems. From 2015 to 2020, he also served as the Director of the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) affiliated with the United Nations. His research addressed new methods toward meeting objectives of the Capacity Building in Space Science Education (SSE) for the 21st Century of UNISPACE+50 Thematic Priority #7 to coordinate capacity building initiatives and promote the participation of women in SEE programs. From 2015 to 2018, he was the Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy.

Senthil was elected ISPRS Technical President of Commission V, Education and Outreach, for the 2016-2022 term. He organized the Commission's Working Groups and encouraged engagement in ISPRS activities. He planned and hosted the Commission V Mid-term Symposium in Dehradun in 2018 and guided the ISPRS Student Consortium programs such as Summer Schools and initiatives in developing regions to promote geospatial science to students and young scientists. In 2022, he was elected Chair of the ISPRS Financial Commission and appointed Operations Officer of The ISPRS Foundation (TIF). In this capacity, he is responsible for operations such as organizing meetings, distributing reports and coordinating the work of TIF committees and the Board of Trustees.

His honours include Life-time Achievement Awards from the Asian Association of Remote Sensing (AARS) in 2019 and the Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS) in 2018. He also received the Prof. Satish Dhawan Award from the ISRS in 2015, Best Director and EET Certificate of Excellence in 2019, and the ISRO Team Awards for Chandrayaan-1 and Cartosat-1 satellite missions.

Wenzhong Shi

Wenzhong Shi is currently a Chair Professor in GIScience and Remote Sensing, and the Director of Smart Cities Research Institute at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Earning his doctoral degree from the University of Osnabruck, Germany in 1994, he is an international leader in spatial data uncertainty and quality, which are fundamental theories of Spatial Information Science (SIS). He has contributed 25 years of continuous service to ISPRS.

Wenzhong has led the global development of urban informatics, an interdisciplinary science that positions Spatial Information Science, Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry as essential drivers for future cities. His major contributions to urban informatics include defining its academic framework and publishing the milestone book Urban Informatics which is used in courses of many top universities. He founded and serves as President and Editor-in Chief of the International Society for Urban Informatics (ISUI) and the international journal Urban Informatics, respectively. He also developed the ISUI Smart City Index and established the world's first full-level higher education in this field. He has published over 500 research articles and 20 books and has over 60 patents granted. He is among the world's top 2% cited researchers in his field. In recognition of his accomplishments, he was appointed Academician of the International Eurasian Academy of Sciences and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Fellow of Academy of Social Sciences (UK). He received the State Natural Science Award, China's highest award for natural sciences (2007); the ISPRS Wang Zhizhuo Award (2012); Founder's Award by International Spatial Accuracy Research Association (2020); Distinguished Scholar Prize by the Chinese Professional Geospatial Information Science (CPGIS) organization (2021) and Gold Medals in 2021 and 2023 at the International Expos of Inventions of Geneva.

From 2000 to 2004, Wenzhong served as Co-Chair to ISPRS WG IV/1, "Spatial and Temporal Data Modelling and Analysis" and from 2004 to 2008 he was the Chair of WG II/7, "Quality of Spatio-temporal Data and Models". He was elected ISPRS Technical President for Commission II, "Theory and Concepts of Spatial Information Science" (2008-2012), and he has served as a member of the International Science Advisory Committee (2012-2026). He organized many ISPRS symposia and other academic events to help ISPRS promote the scientific research under its scope and extend its global impact. For example, he founded the International Symposium on Spatial Data Quality, which has been part of the ISPRS Geospatial Week since 2015. He also initiated and organized the biennial International Conference on Urban Informatics, which is the leading global conference in urban informatics, with ISPRS as a supporting organization.

Qihao Weng

Qihao Weng has been a Chair Professor of Geomatics and Artificial Intelligence and a Global STEM Scholar at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, since July 2021. Prior to this position, he was the Director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Change and Professor at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN, USA from 2001 to 2021. He also was a Senior Fellow at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center from 2008 to 2009. Qihao received Geography Master's degrees from South China Normal University and the University of Arizona in 1990 and 1996, respectively. In 1999, he obtained his Ph.D. degree in Geography specializing in remote sensing, GIS and environmental modelling from the University of Georgia. A world-renowned scholar, his transformative and pioneering contributions have profoundly impacted remote sensing, image science, geospatial AI, GIScience and interdisciplinary research communities.

His innovative work in urban remote sensing, urban climate studies, environmental sustainability, and urbanization processes comprises a cohesive body of scholarship with 330 articles/book chapters and 16 books. His four monographs from 2009 to 2019, were compilations of his prolific research in techniques, methods, theories and applications of urban remote sensing. Among his edited books, "Urban Remote Sensing" was among the first to focus on thermal remote sensing of urban environments, while "Remote Sensing of Impervious Surfaces," addressed early issues of urban land use impacts. His next three books, addressed global perspectives of urban monitoring, scale issues in remote sensing and remote sensing for sustainability, and also covered innovations in methodologies including sub-pixel analysis, image data fusion and multi-modal data integration. His most recent publications explore emerging methods in geospatial AI, with an emphasis on its exciting potential, as well as ethical considerations and attention to privacy.

Qihao has served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing since 2015, Trustee of TIF, The ISPRS Foundation, and the Lead of GEO's Global Urban Observation and Information Initiative (2012-2025). He is an elected foreign member of Academia Europaea and an elected Fellow of IEEE, AAAS, AAG, ASPRS, and AAIA. He has been honoured with distinguished career awards that include the NASA senior fellowship (2009), the JSPS Invitational Fellowship for Research in Japan (2019), the Taylor & Francis Lifetime Achievement Award (2019), the AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honors Award (2020), the AAG Lifetime Achievement in Remote Sensing Award (2024), and the Wilbanks Prize for Transformational Research in Geography (2024). With currently over 40,000 Google citations and an H-index of 93, he ranks 7th out of nearly 76,000 in the field of Geological & Geomatics Engineering for career-long impact.

THE BROCK GOLD MEDAL AWARD

The Brock Gold Medal Award, donated by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, is awarded for an outstanding landmark contribution in the evolution of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, which is a proven contribution to these sciences and technologies of whatever form, whether a major completed project or program, some fundamentally new equipment, system or fundamentally new technique, or other new departure.

Shailesh Nayak

The 2026 awardee is **Shailesh Nayak**, for his outstanding scientific achievements in the remote sensing and geospatial information sciences. Shailesh is currently Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, India. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Institute_of_Advanced_Studies. During his career he has shown exemplary leadership in setting up state-of-art and innovative Centers as well as pioneered techniques and algorithms for the use of space and geospatial technologies for nation-wide societal benefits, and for various programs related to the sciences of climate change, weather services, polar science, ocean science and modelling, ocean survey, resources, and technology. He has provided a new vision and dynamism to the Indian Earth Sciences.

Nayak received a Ph.D. degree in geology in 1980 from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara in 1980, specialising in oceanography and remote sensing. His area of research includes coastal and ocean processes and ocean-atmosphere interaction, coastal geomorphology and hazards. Within ISPRS he was president of Technical Commission IV on 'Geo-databases and Digital Mapping' for the term 2004–08 and was elected ISPRS Fellow in 2012.

Before becoming NIAS Director he was Chancellor of TERI School of Advanced Studies, Delhi and Distinguished Scientist in the Ministry of Earth Sciences. From 2008 to 2015, he was the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) Chair and Secretary to the Government of India for the Ministry of Earth Sciences. In these roles he was mainly responsible for conceptualising, formulating and executing many national level projects related to application of satellite data on ocean colour, integrated coastal zone management, snow and glacial studies and water resources. The generation of detailed information on the Indian coast has influenced the development of policy for zoning of coastal zone for regulating coastal activities and was instrumental in restructuring Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. In 2015 he served as the interim chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Prior to his roles in government, he served as director of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, an autonomous institution under ESSO. At INCOIS, he set up a state-of-the-art Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean in the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami, which earned him worldwide recognition. He was responsible for the conceptualization and development

of Marine GIS and made outstanding contributions to improving advisory services related to potential fishing zones, ocean state forecast, and Indian Argo project. Before becoming director of INCOIS, he worked at the ISRO Space Application Centre in Ahmedabad. He also held various position in the Indian scientific community, among them President of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing, President of the Indian Society of Geomatics, President of the Indian Meteorological Society and Vice-chair, Inter-Governmental Coordinating Group on Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System.

He is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, Allal Abad and a member of the International Academy of Astronautics, Paris. He was honoured with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree by Andhra University in 2011, Assam University in 2013 and Amity University in 2015. He is also the recipient of the Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Award 2012, jointly awarded by ISRO and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the IGU - Hari Narain Lifetime Achievement Award in Geosciences (2013). In 2024 he was awarded the 'Padma Shri' in the field of science and engineering, one of the highest civilian awards of the Indian government and presented by the President of India.

THE OTTO VON GRUBER AWARD

The Otto von Gruber Award, which is donated by the Netherlands Center of Geodesy and Geo-information (NCG), consists of a medal and a monetary grant, and is presented to the author, under 40 years of age, of a paper of outstanding merit in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences published during the 4 years prior to the Congress.

The recipients of the award in 2026 are Zhen Dong and Rongjun Qin.

Zhen Dong

Zhen Dong currently serves as the Chief Scientist of China's National Key R&D Program and the Director of the Department of 3S Integration at the State Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing, Wuhan University. Zhen Dong has published over 80 SCI papers and two monographs, holding more than 10 patents. Notably, he pioneered the international open-source platform WHU-USI3DV (https://github.com/WHU-USI3DV), releasing a comprehensive suite of eight benchmark datasets and 27 algorithms that span multi-modal fusion, scene understanding, and spatial decision-making. This work has become a vital resource for the global community, serving over 10,000 researchers in 60+ countries. The nominated papers consider three different recent benchmark datasets, WHU-Urban3D, Whu-Railway3D, Whu-Helmet3D. Benchmarks in general are a significant contribution to the ISPRS community. Zhen Dong pairs a track record on scientific findings that is impressive by itself with organising benchmark data which directly serve others.

The papers for which Zhen Dong received the award are:

Xu Han X., Liu C., Zhou Y., Tan K., Dong Z., Yang B., 2024. U-Urban3D: **An urban scene LiDAR point cloud dataset for semantic instance segmentation.** ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (209), 500-51, doi: 10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2024.02.007.

Qiu B, Zhou Y., Dai L., Wang B., Li J., Dong Z., Wen C., Ma Z., Yang B., 2024. WHU-Railway3D: **A Diverse Dataset and Benchmark for Railway Point Cloud Semantic Segmentation, Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems**, 25 (12), 20900-20916, doi: 10.1109/TITS.2024.3469546.

Li J., Wu W., Yang B., Zou X., Yang Y., Zhao X., Dong Z., 2023. **WHU-Helmet: A Helmet-Based Multisensor SLAM Dataset for the Evaluation of Real-Time 3-D Mapping in Large-Scale GNSS-Denied Environments.** T-GRSS (61) 1-16, doi: 10.1109/TGRS.2023.3275307.

Rongjun Qin

Rongjun Qin is currently a full Professor in Geomatics and Computer Vision at The Ohio State with a research focus on 3D change detection and photogrammetry from satellite imagery.

In addition, he contributed to the community by delivering strong review papers on 3D object detection and 3D change detection. In particular, the paper, "Cross-view SLAM solver: Global pose estimation of monocular ground-level video frames for 3D reconstruction using a reference 3D model from satellite images" squarely addresses a fundamental and historically persistent photogrammetry/geomatics challenge which is robust geo-referencing and drift-free reconstruction from imperfect image-based trajectories. Qin does so through a genuinely cross-view integration that leverages a satellite-derived 3D model to constrain and correct ground-based monocular SLAM in a principled, online manner, backed by strong quantitative validation.

The papers for which Rongjun Qin received the award are:

Huang D., Qin R., Elhashash M., 2024. **Bundle adjustment with motion constraints for uncalibrated multi-camera systems at the ground level**. ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (211), 452-464, doi: 10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2024.04.023.

Xu N., Qin R., Song S., 2023. **Point cloud registration for LiDAR and photogrammetric data: A critical synthesis and performance analysis on classic and deep learning algorithms.** ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (8), 100032, doi: 10.1016/j.ophoto.2023.100032.

Elhashash M. Qin R., 2022. **Cross-view SLAM solver: Global pose estimation of monocular ground-level video frames for 3D reconstruction using a reference 3D model from satellite images.** ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (188), 62-74, doi: 10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2022.03.018.

THE SAMUEL GAMBLE AWARD

The Samuel Gamble Award is sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Geomatics in honour of Dr. Samuel G. Gamble, former President of ISPRS, and Director of the 1972 Congress. A recipient of the award shall be a person who, like Dr. Gamble, has contributed significantly to the development, organization or professional activities of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, at the national or international level.

In 2026, Ayman Habib and Michael Yang are awarded for their scientific achievements and contributions to the scientific community in the spirit of the award criteria.

Ayman Habib

Ayman Habib is the Thomas A. Page Professor at the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering at Purdue University, the Co-Director of the Civil Engineering Center for Applications of UAS for a Sustainable Environment (CE-CAUSE), and the Associate Director of Purdue University's Joint Transportation Research Program (JTRP) and Institute of Digital Forestry (iDiF). He received the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in photogrammetry from The Ohio State University in 1993 and 1994, respectively.

Over the course of more than three decades, Ayman has established himself as a globally recognized leader in the geospatial sciences, directing internationally renowned research programs at The Ohio State University, the University of Calgary, and Purdue University—three of North America's foremost academic institutions in photogrammetry and remote sensing. His visionary research, coupled with exceptional educational and professional service, has profoundly shaped the modern landscape of geomatics and geospatial science.

An example is his pioneering R&D in mobile mapping systems across crewed and uncrewed terrestrial and airborne platforms, integrating both passive and active sensing technologies. His innovations have directly supported applications in smart agriculture, digital forestry, transportation corridor assessment, resource management, non-destructive archaeology, public safety, and coastal stability monitoring.

A cornerstone is his development of universal strategies for in-situ calibration and trajectory enhancement of GNSS/INS-assisted mobile mapping systems equipped with imaging sensors and LiDAR technologies. These methodologies ensure accurate geometric alignment of multi-modal, multi-platform, and multi-temporal geospatial data, thereby guaranteeing spatial consistency and reliability across diverse acquisition environments.

Complementing these advances, he has introduced rigorous closed-loop QA/QC frameworks designed to enhance the geometric fidelity of geospatial data products. These approaches have established new standards for ensuring precision, accuracy, and integrity in geospatial data processing. Collectively, these contributions have transformed the theory and practice of modern mobile mapping systems implementing photogrammetric and remote sensing technologies.

He is the author of over 500 scholarly publications, including among others 3 books, 15 book chapters, and 172 peer-reviewed journal articles. This prolific record stands as a testament to his scholarly excellence and unwavering commitment to advancing scientific knowledge.

He has devoted extensive effort to professional service, contributing meaningfully to the advancement of the geospatial community at both, national and international level. He has provided exemplary service to ISPRS, holding leadership positions in several working groups, including WG I/8 on Multi-sensor Modelling and Cross-Modality Fusion, WG I/3 on Multi-sensor and Multi-platform Inter-Calibration, and WG III/I on Sensor Pose Estimation.

His distinguished achievements have been recognized through numerous prestigious honours, including Fellow of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) (2025), ASPRS Talbert Abrams Grand Prize (2024, 2016, 2008, 2002), ASPRS Photogrammetric Award (2011), ASPRS Outstanding Service Award (2023), ISPRS President's Citation Award (2012). These distinctions reflect not only the global impact of his scholarly contributions but also his enduring service and leadership within the professional community.

Michael Yang

Michael Yang is an internationally recognised leader in the fields of photogrammetry, remote sensing, and computer vision, currently serving as Full Professor and Director of the Centre for Spatial Intelligence at the University of Bath, UK.

His career and contributions exemplify the spirit of Dr. Samuel Gamble's legacy, advancing the science and global influence of photogrammetry through visionary research, leadership, and community building.

Over the past decade, Michael has demonstrated exceptional scientific productivity and impact. He has authored 15 papers in the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and 4 papers in IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, among numerous other high-impact publications. His research bridges photogrammetric scene analysis, and multimodal learning, leading to new paradigms for integrating visual, spatial, and semantic information. These advances have profoundly influenced how the community models complex spatial environments from multi-source data, representing a major step forward in photogrammetric scene analysis.

Beyond his individual research achievements, he has made outstanding contributions to international scientific leadership and community development. He is one of the founding organisers of the Multimodal Learning and Applications (MULA) Workshop series held in conjunction with the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), one of the world's premier venues in computer vision. Over successive years, this series has become a key interdisciplinary platform linking the communities of computer vision, remote sensing, and photogrammetry, embodying the collaborative and integrative ethos of ISPRS.

Michael's editorial contributions have also shaped the field's trajectory. He served as lead editor of the book Multimodal Scene Understanding (2019) and lead guest editor of the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing special issue on Multi-Modal Learning in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (2021). Both works have become references, guiding researchers exploring data-driven learning-based methods for spatial intelligence.

Michael has been a member of the Editorial Board of the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (2020–2025) and the International Journal of Computer Vision (since 2024). He has also contributed extensively to ISPRS Working Groups, serving as Co-Chair of WG II/5 "Dynamic Scene Analysis" (2016–2022) and Co-Chair of WG II/5 "Temporal Geospatial Data Understanding" (2022–2026). His accomplishments have been recognised through several prestigious distinctions, including the Best Science Paper Award at the 2016 British Machine Vision Conference (BMVC 2016), a Best Paper Award at one of the 2023 International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV) Workshops, and The Willem Schermerhorn Award at the ISPRS Congress in Nice (2020).

His pioneering research, sustained leadership, and global engagement have made enduring contributions to the field of photogrammetry and remote sensing. His work advances the interdisciplinary foundations of our discipline and reflects the same vision that Dr. Gamble embodied.

THE SCHWIDEFSKY MEDAL

The Schwidefsky Medal is sponsored by the German Society of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and Spatial Information (DGPF), in memory of Professor Dr. rer. techn. Dr.-Ing. e.h. Kurt Schwidefsky, Honorary Member of the ISPRS. The Award is in the form of a medal made of porcelain. The recipients shall be persons who have made significant contributions to photogrammetry and remote sensing, either through the medium of publication as author or editor, or in another form.

Jie Shan

The Schwidefsky Medal 2026 is awarded to Jie Shan.

Jie Shan is the Reilly Professor of Civil Engineering at Purdue University. He has been a visiting scientist at the US Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation Science Center, German Aerospace Center (DLR), and the Finnish Geospatial Research Institute. His primary research field is image- and lidar-based geospatial data processing, analysis and modelling. He is a renowned world leader in photogrammetry and lidar mapping, specializing in 3D geospatial modelling. He has developed original methodologies for terrain and urban modelling using airborne and spaceborne lidar, significantly advancing the fields of photogrammetry and remote sensing. His scholarly contributions to 3D building reconstruction and sensor/image pose estimation without prior correspondences have advanced photogrammetry, both theoretically and practically. His research has solved long-standing challenges, broadened the scope of the discipline and inspired new interdisciplinary developments.

He has been highly active in ISPRS for many years. In addition to serving as working group co-chairs and reviewer, he has also been a long-term member of the ISPRS Science Advisory Committee since 2012. His sustained, significant contributions clearly demonstrate his commitment to advancing the mission and activities of ISPRS.

He is ranked among the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientists for both career-long and single year every year from 2019 to 2025. He is an elected Fellow of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). His recognitions and awards include the ESRI Award for Best Scientific Paper in GIS (First Place), Talbert Abrams Grand Award (ASPRS), Best Paper Award of IEEE/ISPRS Workshop, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship, Fairchild Photogrammetry Award (ASPRS), and the Outstanding Service Award (ASPRS).

His record of creativity, scholarly impact, and leadership exemplifies the highest standards recognized by the prestigious Schwidefsky Medal.

THE WANG ZHIZHUO AWARD

The Wang Zhizhuo Award is sponsored by the Chinese Society of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography (CSGPC) and consists of a medal and a monetary grant. It is granted at each quadrennial ISPRS Congress to a person who has made significant achievement or innovation in the spatial information sciences.

Peter van Oosterom

Peter van Oosterom has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Award for his sustained and system-level contributions to spatial information sciences, particularly in 3D geoinformation models, spatial data infrastructures, and OGC-related standards development. His recent work on 3D/4D data modelling and integration frameworks represents validated, operational, and internationally adopted innovations that fall squarely within the award's defined evaluation period. These contributions demonstrate both theoretical depth and large-scale implementation impact.

Peter van Oosteom is a Professor of GIS Technology at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at TU Delft. His work concentrates on the spatial information infrastructure; a central point is durable geo information that can be shared and re-used, based on joint definitions of data sets and services. Proceeding from technology and technology development he aims to contribute to the realisation of a spatial data infrastructure based on vario-scale spatiotemporal 2D – 5D models and processes for applications areas such as cadastre and real-time GIS. In a vario-scale data structure, data are stored once and can be used for generating all wanted scales in a smooth digital approach. Peter's efforts have resulted in true impacts on society. For example, the topology, 3D geometry and validation research results are now part of the Oracle spatial Database Management System. Together with Dutch cadastre researchers, he and his colleagues introduced a world-wide standard for the land administration domain model (ISO 19152). His professorial chair also hosts international events and publishes corresponding proceedings. With these activities he has significantly impacted the international geo-information research agenda.

Together with research partners, colleagues and PhD students, he has won prizes for several outstanding results, including the Oracle spatial education and research excellence award 2007, the Dutch Geo-innovation Awards in the category 'Science' (2007 and 2009), for 3D topography and usable well-scaled mobile maps, respectively. He was granted a patent for variable scale geo-information (2012) and a US Patent for Localisation Techniques in Buildings (2013).

In addition to his professorship at TU Delft, he is scientific director of Wuhan University - TU Delft Joint Research Centre on Spatial Information, and chairman of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) working group 3D Cadastre. He is a member of editorial boards of several international journals and research monographs and a member of programme committees of many GIS related conferences and events.

THE FREDERICK J. DOYLE AWARD

The Frederick J. Doyle Award is awarded to an individual who has made significant accomplishments in advancing the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences and technologies. A recipient of the award should typically be less than 50 years of age and have outstanding stature within the ISPRS community. The award consists of a silver medal and a monetary grant.

Fabio Remondino

The Frederick J. Doyle Award 2026 goes to **Fabio Remondino**.

Over the past 20 years, Fabio has built and led a highly regarded research group at the FBK Research Centre in Trento, Italy, which comprises some 25 PhD students and researchers. Thanks to his accomplishments in advancing the science and technology of photogrammetry, Fabio has earned significant stature within the ISPRS community.

Three areas of significant contribution stand out within Fabio's professional record. The first of these is education and training in which he contributes an inordinate amount of time by participating in and organizing international conferences, workshops, seminars, short-term guest professorships and ad hoc lecturing. He has a strong passion and commitment to educating in the broadest sense, both for his peers and the next generation of photogrammetry and spatial information professionals. His record of high-quality achievement in this area is substantial.

He has been a Visiting Professor in photogrammetry, 3D surveying and mapping in various universities (ETH Zurich, University of Innsbruck, University of Bologna and Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology); he has organized more than 20 international CIPA, ISPRS and UNESCO summer schools, three tutorials at conferences and four EuroSDR EduServ courses; and he has established over a dozen benchmark training datasets, including the ISPRS/EuroSDR benchmark on Oblique Photogrammetry in 2015, 3DOMcity, ArchDepth, TIME, NeRF, InCUBE, and most recently Thermitage and 3D3. Moreover, he has organized more than 35 international scientific conferences/workshops within the ISPRS, SPIE, EGU, EuroSDR and CIPA organizations. All of these efforts could be largely characterized as 'above and beyond the call of duty' given that Fabio is a full-time research leader at the FBK Research Foundation, where he has supervised 10 PhD students through to completion, and is currently supervising 12 PhD students in his group.

The second area of sustained contribution is in research and development, where his activities have covered various topics, and his contributions have always been at the leading edge of photogrammetric science and technology. Areas of particular focus over the past few years have included automated classification of photogrammetry/lidar-generated 3D point clouds using machine and deep learning methods, data fusion and the inclusion of semantic information within the photogrammetry processing pipeline, block adjustment of oblique drone imagery, and the application of SLAM and cloud-based computing within photogrammetry.

Noteworthy in his research record is also his enthusiasm for cooperative international research initiatives, as exemplified by a large number of EU projects, e.g., BOOSTEE-CE, VOLTA, TARGET and TRACENET in which he has been a Principal Investigator; and LEMONADE and RAPIDMAP where he was the coordinator. Also, he was FBK PI for the REPLICATE, SLICE3D, CENTRIC, Dynamic Light, Virtual Arch and ITN-DCH multinational projects. Fabio is currently coordinating three EU projects (I-DEAL, WildBotics, XRCulture) and is a PI in six more. He has also participated in a number of private sector R&D projects focused upon advanced photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information science and technology. From these projects and others, Fabio has published more than 150 papers in journals and at scientific conferences, together with 8 books and 9 book chapters. He has received numerous awards for best papers at conferences, and he is the recipient of two prestigious awards in photogrammetry: the Duane C. Brown Award (2022) and the Carl Pulfrich Award (2025).

The third area of significant contribution is his long-standing commitment to ISPRS and associated scientific organizations. His record in this regard is exemplary, and includes the following positions: Chairman of Technical Commission V working groups from 2004 to 2012, President of Technical Commission V ("Close-range Photogrammetry"), 2012 – 2016, President of Technical Commission II ("Photogrammetry"), 2016 – 2020, Vice-President, CIPA, 2015 - 2020 and Executive Board Member from 2009 to 2015, Vice-President of Research, EuroSDR, 2017 to 2023, and EuroSDR Commission I President from 2013 to 2017.

THE GIUSEPPE INGHILLERI AWARD

The Giuseppe Inghilleri Award, sponsored by the Italian Society for Surveying and Photogrammetry (SIFET) is presented to a person who has significantly enhanced the applications of photogrammetry, remote sensing or spatial information sciences in the 4 years preceding the Congress. The award consists of SFr 2,500 and a certificate.

Antonio Tommaselli

In 2026, the award goes to **Antonio Tommaselli** for his high-impact, application-driven methodological advanced research and sustained international leadership. His contributions range from a photogrammetric real-time visual SLAM solution for omnidirectional imaging systems, strengthening geometric rigour in operational navigation/mapping workflows, and a geometric calibration framework for hyperspectral frame cameras that explicitly models sensor misalignment, directly improving the reliability of UAV-based hyperspectral products and downstream environmental/agricultural applications. This recent research trajectory was reinforced by participation and leadership in major application-oriented multidisciplinary projects, bringing spatial science in fields like biodiversity, climate monitoring and sustainable smart farming.

He is Full Professor of Photogrammetry at São Paulo State University (UNESP) and Vice President of ISPRS Technical Commission I (2022–2026).

Over the last five years, his research has focused on advanced photogrammetric modelling, sensor calibration, and multi-sensor integration involving UAV, terrestrial, LiDAR and multi-sensor mobile mapping systems. He has led major projects on UAV-based 4D photogrammetry, mobile laser scanning, and hyperspectral–LiDAR data fusion. His recent work has introduced innovative methods for camera self-calibration, fisheye and omnidirectional imaging, SLAM-based photogrammetry, and geometric–radiometric integration. His methodologies support scalable, real-time and near-real-time photogrammetric processing for complex environments.

He has published extensively in leading ISPRS journals and Annals, addressing automation, accuracy, and robustness of photogrammetric pipelines. His research has enabled operational applications in digital agriculture, forestry monitoring, and environmental assessment.

He actively contributes to ISPRS governance and scientific leadership. He has supervised numerous PhD and MSc students in photogrammetry and serves on editorial boards of ISPRS journals.

THE GOTTFRIED KONECNY AWARD

In 2025, the German Society for Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Geoinformation (DGPF) established an award in honour of Professor Gottfried Konecny (1930-2024), who made significant contributions to photogrammetry, remote sensing and ISPRS. The Gottfried Konecny Award consists of a certificate and a monetary grant of 2500 €, and is presented to a person who, in the spirit of Gottfried Konecny, has made significant long-term contributions to the science, scientific management and international cooperation in remote sensing.

Wolfgang Wagner

The Gottfried Konecny Award 2026 goes to **Wolfgang Wagner**, TU Vienna, for his outstanding scientific contributions in active remote sensing, combined with his strong leadership role in science management, university administration and in international organisations.

After studies in Physics at TU Vienna, he received a Ph.D. degree in remote sensing in 1999. Following a short period at DLR, Germany, he was appointed to a professorship of remote sensing at TU Vienna in 2001. From 2006-2011 he was Head of the Institute for Photogrammetry before moving to the position as Department Head. Since 2020 he has been Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Geoinformation at TU Vienna.

Wolfgang Wagner is one of the leading scientists in physical modelling and geophysical parameter retrieval from remote sensing data, in particular radar and lidar measurements. He was coordinator of the Austrian Christian Doppler Laboratory for "Spatial Data from Laser Scanning and Remote Sensing", initiated the ESA Climate Change Initiative project on soil moisture for seven years. He serves on various advisory boards of international space projects. He was also a co-founder of the EODC Earth Observation Data Centre, where he has worked part-time as senior scientist since December 2014. His main research interest is to gain physical understanding of the mechanisms driving the interaction of electromagnetic waves with the land surface, working mostly with data derived from microwave scatterometers and Synthetic Aperture Radar sensors for the retrieval of soil moisture, vegetation, and other land surface variables. His work has paved the way for operational soil moisture and flood monitoring services of EUMETSAT and Copernicus.

Within ISPRS, Wolfgang Wagner was President of Technical Commission VII from 2008-2012 when he initiated a number of significant reforms and new activities within the Society, including the new open source International Journal for Geo-Information, the establishment of the ISPRS Archives and Annals as an open access series, and the establishment of management facilities for organisers of scientific meetings. Wolfgang Wagner was also instrumental in organising the 100th anniversary of ISPRS which took place in Vienna in 2010. Since 2012 he has been an active member of the ISPRS Scientific Advisory Committee.

He has an impressive list of publications and has received several prestigious accolades, including the ISPRS Frederick J. Doyle Award (2016) and the Friedrich Hopfner Medal from the Austrian Geodetic Commission (2022). In 2018 he was invited to join the Aerospace Advisory Council of the Austrian Space Promotion Agency (FFG) and became its chair in 2021.

THE LI DEREN AWARD

The Chinese Society for Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography decided, in 2025, to present a periodic award, called Li Deren Award, to encourage the advancement of spatio-temporal intelligence. The award consists of a medal and a monetary grant (5,000 CHF), and is presented at each quadrennial ISPRS Congress to a person who has made a significant achievement or innovation in spatio-temporal intelligence.

Steve Chien

The 2026 awardee is **Steve Chien**. He earned a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign in 1985, followed by a Master of Science (M.S.) in 1987. He completed his studies at the same institution in 1990 with a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Computer Science. Currently, he is a Senior Research Scientist, and Technical Group Supervisor of the Artificial Intelligence Group and in the Mission Planning and Execution Section at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), California Institute of Technology, where he is a JPL Fellow and leads efforts in automated planning and scheduling for space exploration.

His work represents a system-level breakthrough in autonomous spatio-temporal decision-making. One of his most influential contributions was his role as the architect of the EO-1 Autonomous Sciencecraft, the first fully integrated demonstration of closed-loop, science-driven autonomy in orbit. The mission operated from 2004-2017 and included several advances including onboard replanning for rapid response, onboard imagery analysis including machine learning inference, and onboard summarization for rapid notification. He subsequently pioneered the sensorweb concept which coordinated multiple spacecraft to enhance spatio-temporal intelligence. Sensorwebs for flood and volcano monitoring continue today, leveraging commercial remote sensing capabilities. He also led the development of campaign-based science scheduling for ESA's Rosetta mission, incorporating complex spatio-temporal constraints into an AI-based observation scheduling system. He played key roles in the use of automated scheduling for the ECOSTRESS, OCO-3, and EMIT missions - incorporating autonomous coverage scheduling and advancing the state of the art in spatio-temporal intelligence. He has also played a key role in the deployment of an advanced AI scheduler onboard the Perseverance rover at Mars, which addresses temporal reasoning to manage complex thermal and energy constraints. He is currently the Principal Investigator for the Federated Autonomous Measurement (FAME) effort, deploying AI to over 60 spacecraft, leveraging recent advances in machine learning, edge computing, and multi-agent systems.

He is internationally recognized as a pioneer in autonomous spacecraft systems and in-orbit data processing. Over more than two decades, his work has established technical foundations that enable remote sensing platforms to reason, adapt, and optimize data acquisition directly in space. His broader body of work has systematically advanced the theory, algorithms, and flight implementation of onboard artificial intelligence for remote sensing.

In addition to his technical contributions, the recipient has provided sustained leadership and service to the broader research community. He has authored or co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications spanning autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, and remote sensing, many of which are highly cited and widely used as foundational references. His work appears in leading journals and conferences relevant to ISPRS and IEEE, including venues that bridge geoscience, remote sensing, and intelligent systems. Through mentoring, collaboration, and service on advisory and review panels, he has played a key role in shaping the next generation of researchers and engineers working at the intersection of photogrammetry, remote sensing, and autonomous systems.

Today, as the remote sensing community confronts unprecedented data volumes, latency requirements, and operational constraints, the importance of onboard intelligence is universally recognized. Many of the concepts now considered essential—adaptive sensing, onboard data triage, and science-driven autonomy—can be traced directly to his pioneering work.

In recognition of his seminal and pioneering contributions to onboard artificial intelligence and autonomous data processing for remote sensing systems, which have fundamentally transformed how Earth observation missions acquire, process, and deliver geospatial information, he has received a multitude of awards including the 1995 JPL Lew Allen Award for Excellence, various NASA Exceptional Achievement Medals (1997, 2007, 2015), the NASA Software of the Year Award (2005) and the a JPL Magellan Award (2015).

THE U.V. HELAVA AWARD

The U.V. Helava Award is a prestigious ISPRS Award, which was established in 1998 to encourage and stimulate submission of high-quality scientific papers by individual authors or groups to the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, to promote and advertise the journal, and to honour the outstanding contributions of Dr. Uuno V. Helava to research and development in photogrammetry and remote sensing. The Award is presented to authors of the best paper, written in English and published exclusively in the ISPRS Journal during the four-year period from January of a Congress year, to December of the year prior to the next Congress.

The award consists of a monetary grant of 10,000 SFr., a certificate and a silver plaque. It is sponsored by Elsevier B.V. and Hexagon Geosystems. The plaque was designed with care and enthusiasm by the 1980-88 ISPRS Technical Commission III President, Einari Kilpelä, previously a professor at Aalto University (formerly Helsinki University of Technology), the university where Helava studied.

The award-winning paper for 2022-2025 is:

Word2Scene: *Efficient remote sensing image scene generation with only one word via hybrid intelligence and low-rank representation*, by Jiaxin Ren, Wanzeng Liu, Jun Chen, Shunxi Yin, Yuan Tao, published in Vol. 218, Part B, December 2024, pp. 231-257.

doi: 10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2024.11.002

Jury's rationale for the paper selection

This paper developed an efficient method, named 'Word2Scene', for generating remote sensing scenes using hybrid intelligence and low-rank representation, supported by a novel evaluation method. The approach allows to generate realistic looking remote sensing images with strong control over the semantics. This generative capability can be used to understand what is represented by the models but also the deficiencies. Therefore, it is very deserving of the U.V. Helava Award for 2022-2025.

Jiaxin Ren

Wanzeng Liu

Shunxi Yin

Jun Chen

Yuan Tao

The authors of the three next-best papers during 2022 – 2025

For 2022: UNetFormer: A UNet-like transformer for efficient semantic segmentation of remote sensing urban scene imagery, by Libo Wang, Rui Li, Ce Zhang, Shenghui Fang, Chenxi Duan, Xiaoliang Meng, Peter M. Atkinson.

Vol. 190, August 2022, pp. 196-214.

doi: 10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2022.06.008

For 2023: The development of a global LAI and FAPAR product using GCOM-C/SGLI data, by Toshiyuki Kobayashi, Hideki Kobayashi, Wei Yang, Hiroshi Murakami, Yoshiaki Honda, Kenlo Nishida Nasahara.

Vol. 202, August 2023, pp. 479-498.

doi: 10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2023.07.003

For 2025: Nothing Stands Still: A spatiotemporal benchmark on 3D point cloud registration under large geometric and temporal change, by Tao Sun, Yan Hao, Shengyu Huang, Silvio Savarese, Konrad Schindler, Marc Pollefeys, Iro Armeni.

Vol 220, February 2025, pp. 799-823.

doi: 10.1016/j.isprsjprs.2025.01.010

THE JACK DANGERMOND AWARD

The Jack Dangermond Award was established in 2017 to encourage and stimulate submission of high-quality scientific papers by individual authors or groups to the ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information, to promote and advertise the journal, and to honour the outstanding contributions of Jack Dangermond, founder and CEO of ESRI, to research and development in Geospatial Information Sciences. The Award is presented to authors of the best paper, written in English and published exclusively in the ISPRS Journal during the four-year period from January of a Congress year, to December of the year prior to the next Congress. The award consists of a monetary grant of 10,000 U$ and a certificate, it is sponsored by MDPI and ESRI.

For the period 2022 - 2025, the winning paper is:

Mining Spatiotemporal Mobility Patterns Using Improved Deep Time Series Clustering, by Zhang, Ziyi, Li, Diya, Zhang, Zhe, Duffield, Nick. Published in ISPRS Int. J. Geo-Inf. 2024, 13, 374.

doi: 10.3390/ijgi13110374

Ziyi Zhang

Diya Li

Zhe Zhang

Nick Duffield

Jury's rationale for the paper selection

The winning paper addresses issues in spatiotemporal mobility pattern mining, a core challenge in geo-information science. The authors propose an improved deep time series clustering method that uniquely integrates a temporal autoencoder with dynamic time warping-based K-means clustering. This innovation robustly addresses persistent challenges of high dimensionality, noise, outliers, and time distortions in mobility data. The framework demonstrably outperforms existing techniques on both synthetic and real-world datasets. Crucially, its application to U.S. COVID-19 mobility data reveals actionable insights into rural-urban behavioural differences and policy impacts, directly demonstrating societal values. By blending cutting-edge deep learning with classical clustering in a reproducible, data-driven framework, this work advances unsupervised spatiotemporal analysis and provides a reliable foundation for evidence-based decision-making in urban planning, public health, and disaster response. The Jury felt this well-written contribution represents a genuine scientific advance in spatiotemporal mobility pattern mining and, therefore, very deserving of the Jack Dangermond Award for 2022-2025.

The authors of the three next-best papers during 2022 – 2025

For 2022: A Forest of Forests: A Spatially Weighted and Computationally Efficient Formulation of Geographical Random Forests, by Georganos, Stefanos, Kalogirou, Stamatis.

ISPRS Int. J. Geo-Inf. 2022, 11(9), 471.

doi: 10.3390/ijgi11090471

For 2023: Deep Learning Semantic Segmentation for Land Use and Land Cover Types Using Landsat 8 Imagery, by Boonpook, Wuttichai, Tan, Yumin, Nardkulpat, Attawut, Torsri, Kritanai, Torteeka, Peerapong., Kamsing, Patcharin, Sawangwit, Utane, Pena, Jose, Jainaen, Montri.

ISPRS Int. J. Geo-Inf. 2023, 12(1), 14.

doi: 10.3390/ijgi12010014

For 2025: Development of a Fifteen-Minute City Index Using Walkability Scores and Age-Classified Population: The Case of Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines, by Mañago, Carlo Angelo R., Nasalita, Marielle G., Saveron, Cesar V., Sunga, Ynah Andrea D., Claridades, Alexis Richard C.

ISPRS Int. J. Geo-Inf. 2025, 14(2), 78.

doi: 10.3390/ijgi14020078

THE FRITZ ACKERMANN AWARD

The ISPRS Fritz Ackermann Award was established in 2022 to encourage and stimulate submission of high-quality scientific papers by individual authors or groups to the ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, to promote and advertise the Journal, and to honour the outstanding contributions of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Friedrich (Fritz) Ackermann to research and development in photogrammetry and remote sensing. The award will be presented every four years to the author(s) of an outstanding paper, written in English, and published exclusively in the journal during the four-year period from 1 January of a Congress year, to 31 December of the year prior to the next Congress. As an exception, the period for the first Award covered the five-year period starting in 2021. The award consists of a monetary grant of EUR 10,000 and a certificate. It is sponsored by Elsevier B.V. and Trimble Inc.

For the period 2021 - 2025, the winning paper is:

Airborne sensor fusion: Expected accuracy and behavior of a concurrent adjustment, by Kyriaki Mouzakidou, Aurélien Brun, Davide Antonio Cucci, Jan Skaloud, Published in Vol. 12, April 2024, pp. 231-257.

doi: 10.1016/j.ophoto.2023.100057

Jury's rationale for the paper selection

Kyriaki Mouzakidou

Aurélien Brun

Davide Antonio Cucci

Jan Skaloud

In their article, the authors address the highly relevant problem of photogrammetry with consumer-grade drones and navigation sensors. More in detail, the authors thoroughly investigate tightly coupled sensor orientation with spatial constraints in a common adjustment. The results show significant improvement in the attitude accuracy of the derived trajectory while reducing the dispersion of geo-referencing errors. Boresight estimation can be stabilized by using image constraints. The ablation study demonstrates the influence of different types of spatial constraints and flight geometries. The work potentially speaks to quite a large audience, while still being non-trivial.

The authors of the four next-best papers during 2021 – 2025

For 2021: Efficient coarse registration method using translation- and rotation-invariant local descriptors towards fully automated forest inventory, by Eric Hyyppä, Xiaowei Yu, Antero Kukko, Jesse Muhojoki, Harri Kaartinen, Juha Hyyppä

Vol. 2, December 2021.

doi: 10.1016/j.ophoto.2021.100007

For 2022: Automatic orientation of historical terrestrial images in mountainous terrain using the visible horizon, by Sebastian Mikolka-Flöry, Camillo Ressl, Lorenz Schimpl, Norbert Pfeifer

Vol. 6, December 2022.

doi: 10.1016/j.ophoto.2022.100026

For 2023: Model-based constraints for trajectory determination of quad-copters: Design, calibration & merits for direct orientation, by Kenneth Joseph Paul, Davide Antonio Cucci, Jan Skaloud

Vol. 7, January 2023.

doi: 10.1016/j.ophoto.2023.100030

For 2025: Intensity-based stochastic model of terrestrial laser scanners: Methodological workflow, empirical derivation and practical benefit, by by Florian Schill, Christoph Holst, Daniel Wujanz, Jens Hartmann, Jens-André Paffenholz

Vol. 15, January 2025.

doi: 10.1016/j.ophoto.2024.100079

ISPRS BEST YOUNG AUTHOR AWARD

The awards for Best Papers by Young Authors are provided by donor organizations and by ISPRS to authors who are less than 35 years old and are the 1st author of a high-quality paper presented at the Congress.

Lukas Arzoumanidis, Germany

Domain-Adaptive Object Detection for Enriching Semantic 3D City Models with Building Storeys from Street-View Images

Thomas Goldring, United Kingdom

Comparative practices in 3-D geoinformation by national mapping and cadastral agencies

Clay Taylor Harrison, Austria

Practical Implementation and Adaptation of Rainforest-Based Inter-calibration for ESCAT-ASCAT Scatterometer Data Records

Rabindra Lamsal, Australia

Query2Property: Semantic retrieval of IFC properties for natural language BIM queries

Elías Masquil, Uruguay

Diachronic Stereo Matching for multi-date Satellite Imagery

Tobias Traiser, Germany

Impact of geometric priors: advanced fine-grained airplane detection with geometric details in high-resolution satellite images

Taiki Uno, Japan

Refraction-Aware Gaussian Splatting for Shallow Water Bathymetry from UAV Imagery Aware Gaussian Splatting for Shallow Water Bathymetry from UAV Imagery

Haiyang Wu, The Netherlands

Feasibility of Indoor Frame-Wise Lidar Semantic Segmentation via Distillation from Visual Foundation Model

THE EDUARD DOLEŽAL AWARD

The Eduard Doležal Award is donated by the Austrian Society for Surveying and Geoinformation to assist individuals or representatives of institutions from developing or reform countries to participate in the ISPRS Congress.

Patricia Mwangi

The 2026 recipient is **Patricia Mwangi** for her significant work in remote sensing. Patricia is a Geospatial Engineer with over ten years working experience. She graduated from the University of Nairobi, Kenya with a Bachelor's degree in Geospatial Engineering and proceeded to University of Florence, Italy, to pursue a Master's degree in Geomatics & Natural Resources Evaluation. She completed her PhD from Kenyatta University, Nairobi, where the focus of her research was modelling the spatial relationship between built-up volume densities and surface urban heat islands. She has worked in various private organizations as a land surveyor and GIS analyst. She currently lecturers at Kenyatta University in the School of Engineering & Architecture, Department of Spatial and Environmental Planning, where she offers courses in GIS, Remote Sensing, Aerial Photogrammetry, Surveying and Rural Planning Studios. She has been a tutor in the Environmental and Remote Sensing Data Analysis, Geotraining Summer School conducted in September at Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main from 2019 to 2024, and at Osnabrück University in September 2025. She is also the current chair of ISPRS working group III/4 on "Land use and land cover change detection", which aims at developing landuse and landcover change detection methods and applications based on multi-sensor and multi-temporal remote sensing data in relation to environmental and socio-economical issue in the context of global change.

THE WILLEM SCHERMERHORN AWARD

The Willem Schermerhorn Award, sponsored by Geo-Information Netherlands is granted to a person who has most significantly contributed to the activities of a Working Group of the ISPRS during the four-year Congress period. The award consists of a certificate.

Anjana Vyas

The 2026 Award goes to **Anjana Vyas** for her exceptional tenure as Chair of ISPRS Inter-Commission Working Group V/IV, in 2022–26, generating far-reaching global influence through distinguished international conferences, robust capacity-building initiatives, inclusive gender-focused programs and strong industry–academia linkages. Her stewardship enriched spatial information-science education, broadened ISPRS membership, deepened international collaborations, established enduring standards of excellence in academic and professional service. She also chaired WGV/1 in 2016-22 and WGV/2 in 2012-16, and organised the CATCON competition during several ISPRS Congresses.

Anjana is recognized for her outstanding leadership as Chair of the Inter-Commission Working Group V/IV (ISPRS) during the 2022–2026 Congress period. Through this role, she has made significant contributions to advancing ISPRS activities in geospatial education, capacity building, and international collaboration. She has led and coordinated an extensive programme of international workshops, summer schools, training initiatives, and scientific sessions across Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australia. These activities have strengthened global engagement in ISPRS, fostering active participation from academia, industry, and government, while expanding opportunities for students and early-career professionals.

A defining aspect of her contribution is the integration of education, research, and practice, with a strong emphasis on inclusive and interdisciplinary approaches. Her initiatives have addressed emerging areas such as digital twins, climate resilience, and urban governance, while also promoting gender inclusion and broader societal engagement in geospatial sciences. Through these efforts, she has contributed to increasing ISPRS visibility, membership, and sustained international collaboration. She has ensured high standards in the organization and reporting of Working Group activities, delivering consistent and impactful outcomes aligned with the objectives of Technical Commissions IV and V. Her strategic vision, organizational capability, and dedication have enabled the Inter-Commission Working Group V/IV to operate as an effective global platform for knowledge exchange and professional development.

With over four decades of experience in geomatics education and research, and a strong record of publications, research and professional projects, and academic leadership, Anjana brings both depth and direction to ISPRS activities. Her contributions exemplify the purpose and spirit of the Willem Schermerhorn Award.

THE PRESIDENT'S HONORARY CITATION

The President's Honorary Citation is a certificate of recognition presented by the President of ISPRS to one or more officers (chairperson, co-chairperson or secretary) of one Working Group of each ISPRS Technical Commission. The citation is to recognize special, personal and meritorious contributions to the operation of the relevant Technical Commission's activities and advancement of its interests, during the quadrennial term of the Society.

Technical Commission I:
Cheng Wang

in acknowledgment of his sustained and high-quality contributions to the ISPRS community during the 2022–2026 term. Led by Cheng Wang, WG I/8 has served as an important coordinating body within ISPRS TC I, with a clear mandate to advance research and collaboration in multi-sensor integration, 3D sensing, and sensor systems. Through consistent and well-structured activities, the working group has contributed meaningfully to strengthening ISPRS's scientific profile and to fostering exchange across related disciplines, including photogrammetry, remote sensing, computer vision, and robotics.

Technical Commission II:
Ksenia Bittner

for her outstanding leadership of Working Group II/3 on "3D Scene Reconstruction for Modeling and Mapping", her exceptional commitment to the organization of ISPRS-sponsored scientific events across multiple societies since 2022, and her meritorious contributions to the effective operation, coordination, and scientific advancement of Technical Commission II.

Technical Commission III:
Xinlian Liang

for his dedication to WG III-1, Remote Sensing Data Processing and Understanding, which has helped promote new algorithmic approaches and clarified the profusion of artificial intelligence-based methods increasingly used in remote sensing applications. This role as promoter and sentinel over a period of 10 years is essential for our Commission and for ISPRS, including for the selection of papers for the Congress.

Technical Commission IV:
Mila Koeva, Giorgio Agugiaro, Lucía Díaz Vilariño

in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the advancement of Urban Digital Twin concepts, the connection of research communities across domains through scientific events and special journal issues, and their sustained efforts to promote the work of the Working Group on Spatially Enabled Urban and Regional Digital Twins.

Technical Commission V:
Maria Grazia D'Urso

for her meritorious contributions to the objectives and activities Technical Commission V, and invaluable leadership of WG V/2 on Regional and International Education Programs.

ISPRS STUDENT AND EMERGING PROFESSIONALS CONSORTIUM SERVICE AWARD

The ISPRS Student and Emerging Professionals Consortium Service Award (ISPRS STEP Service Award) recognizes an individual who has rendered exceptional contributions to the Consortium during an ISPRS Congress term. This award was given for the first time in 2020, and then at each following Congress.

Laxmi Thapa

For 2026, the award is presented to **Laxmi Thapa** for outstanding leadership of the ISPRS STEP in the 2022 to 2026 term. She has been actively involved in organizing capacity-building initiatives to foster knowledge exchange and networking among young professionals in Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and GIS on a national and global scale; examples include the many summer schools around the world under the umbrella of the ISPRS STEP, for which she was the master mind, and the ISPRS STEP webinar series, for which she was again the main driver.

She earned her undergraduate degree in Geomatics Engineering from Kathmandu University, Nepal, in 2012. Since 2013, she has served as a Geomatics Engineer (Survey Officer) at the Survey Department under the Government of Nepal, contributing to various projects. From 2017 to 2019, she completed a master's degree in Geospatial Technologies through the Erasmus Mundus Joint Degree Program, studying in Portugal, Germany, and Spain. She has been actively engaged in multi-disciplinary research, focusing on the application of geospatial technologies for Earth observation. In 2023, she spent a year at the University of Oxford as an early-stage researcher, investigating the vertical distribution of aerosols using multi-sensor data and machine learning. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate at Aston University, UK, where her research explores the integration of emerging technologies into disaster management systems in Smart Cities.

ISPRS STUDENT AND EMERGING PROFESSIONALS CONSORTIUM EXCELLENCE AWARD

The ISPRS Student and Emerging Professionals Consortium Excellence Award (ISPRS STEP Excellence Award) commends students and young researchers for publishing outstanding papers in any ISPRS publication, such as journals, Annals, and Archives. The applicant must be the first author of the published paper. At the time of submission of the paper, the applicant must either be enrolled in a graduate or postgraduate degree program (Master's or Doctoral degree) or have completed the degree not more than 6 months prior to the submission of the paper.

Mohammadreza Heidarianbaei

The 2026 recipient of the award is **Mohammadreza Heidarianbaei**, Institute of Photogrammetry and GeoInformation (IPI), Leibniz University Hannover, Germany for his paper entitled *"NoMeFormer: Non-Manifold Mesh Transformer"*, which he presented at the Semantics3D Workshop of the ISPRS Geospatial Week 2025 in Dubai. The paper is published in ISPRS Annals and also received the best paper award of that event.

He earned his Bachelor's degree in Geomatics Engineering from Babol Noshirvani University of Technology (NIT) in 2020. From 2020 to 2022, he was engaged with a university spin-off startup, focusing on transferring advanced 3D reconstruction methodologies to industrial applications. He subsequently completed his Master of Science in Geodesy and Geoinformatics at Leibniz University Hannover, Germany, in 2024. He is currently a doctoral candidate and research staff member at IPI. His PhD research focuses on deep learning architectures for 3D data, featuring work such as NoMeFormer to process non-manifold 3D textured mesh data efficiently.

ISPRS WEC KENNERT TORLEGÅRD TRAVEL GRANT

This Travel Grant is named after the late ISPRS president Kennert Torlegård (1937-2016) to honour his many contributions to photogrammetry, remote sensing and GIS as well as to ISPRS. It is sponsored by the ISPRS While Elephant Club (WEC) and managed by TIF, The ISPRS Foundation. Its purpose is to support attendance at an ISPRS congress by a young scientist. The recipient is normally an author of a paper, accepted for the Congress at which the travel grant will be presented.

The recipient of the 2026 ISPRS WEC Kennert Torlegård Travel Grant is

Zhongyuan Yang,
Japan

ISPRS C.P. LO. TRAVEL GRANT

The ISPRS C.P. Lo Travel Grant was established in 2026 to honour the immense contributions of Dr. Chor-Pang Lo, a pioneer of research and development in Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and GIS. The purpose of the Travel Grant is to support young scientists, encouraging them to take over leadership roles within ISPRS in the future, and is to be used to attend an ISPRS Congress. The Travel Grant is administered and presented by The ISPRS Foundation (TIF).

Dr. Winnie Tang, a student of Dr. Chor-Pang Lo, made a generous donation to TIF to ensure the Travel Grant can be presented to at least one young scientist at the next quadrennial ISPRS Congresses.

The first ISPRS C.P. Lo Travel Grants, made at the XXV ISPRS Congress in Toronto in July 2026, go to:

Hsuan-Yi Li,
United Kingdom

Nur Hidayah
Zakaria, Malaysia

BEST REVIEWERS OF THE ISPRS XXV CONGRESS

Reviewing the submissions for a scientific event is an essential element of quality assurance in any discipline. The XXV Congress recognises the top reviewers per Technical Commission and wholeheartedly thanks them for their valuable time and efforts.

Krzysztof Bakula	Poland	**Francesco Pirotti**	Italy
Timo Balz	China	**Fabio Remondino**	Italy
Yiping Chen	China	**Ribana Roscher**	Germany
Norbert Haala	Germany	**Mahdieh Shirmohammadi**	China
Petra Helmholz	Australia	**Junichi Susaki**	Japan
Xinliang Liang	China	**Praveen Thakur**	India
Gabriela Lenzano	Argentina	**Antonio Tommaselli**	Brazil
Andrea Lingua	Italy	**Yelda Turkan**	United States
Enrico Magazzino	Italy	**Yunsheng Wang**	Finland
Andrea Masiero	Italy	**Chenglu Wen**	China
Patricia Mwangi	Kenya	**Tao Zhang**	China
Sasha Nasonova	Canada		

CATCON AWARD

At the Congress, CATCON - the Computer Assisted Teaching Contest - will be organized by ISPRS Technical Commission V. It is funded by ISPRS. The main objective of the contest is to promote the development and dissemination of good, user-friendly software packages, web content and data sets for computer assisted teaching, which preferably are non-commercial and free. Typically, the prizes consist of a Gold Award (SFr. 3,000), a Silver Award (SFr. 2,500), and a Bronze Award (SFr. 1,500) and a certificate.

ISPRS BEST POSTER AWARD

At the Congress, a total of 10 Best Poster Papers Awards are sponsored by ISPRS. A jury for each of the five ISPRS Commissions observes the poster presentations and selects the two best Poster Papers of each Commission. The award consists of a gift and certificate from the Congress Director.

YOUTH FORUM AWARDS

The best paper at the Youth Forum will be selected from the papers of the Youth Forum Technical Sessions. The Youth Forum Best Paper award consists of a certificate and a gift sponsored by Leica Geosystems, Switzerland.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO ISPRS

Besides the Working Group officers, the Technical Commission Presidents and Council Members there are many people who collectively contribute to the activities and the success of ISPRS. At the Congress a representative number of them are honoured for their dedicated and excellent work and service for the society. At the Toronto Congress, Certificates of Recognition go to:

TANG Xinming, TC I President

Antonio Tommaselli, TC I Vice-President

ZHANG Tao, TC I Secretary

Alper Yilmaz, TC II President

Jan Dirk Wegner, TC II Vice-President

Rongjun Qin, TC II Secretary

Laurent Polidori, TC III President

Alessandra Gomes, TC III Vice-President

Jean-Francois Faure, TC III Secretary

Sisi Zlatanova, TC IV President

Maria Antonia Brovelli, TC IV Vice-President

Hao WU, TC IV Secretary

Gay Jane Perez, TC V President

Josefino Comiso, TC V Vice-President

Ayin Tamondong, TC V Secretary

Charles Toth, ISAC Chair

Gunter Schreier, IPAC Chair

Hartmut Rosengarten, IIAC Chair

Mary Ann Kutny, ICORSE Chair (2022-2023)

Doris Klein, ICORSE Chair (2022-2024)

Stratos Stylianidis (2022-2023)

Fulvio Rinaudo, CIPA Chair (2024-2026)

Laxmi Thapa, Student and Emerging Professionals Consortium President

Mario Hernandez, TIF Trustee & Chair of the Board

Jeff Yates, TIF Trustee & Finance Officer

Senthil Kumar, TIF Trustee & Operations Officer

Senthil Kumar, Chair Financial Commission

Petri Rönnholm, Financial Commission

Andrea Masiero, Financial Commission

André Nonguierma, Regional Representative for Africa

Raul Queiroz Feitosa, Regional Representative Latin America

H. Jaime Hernández Palma, Vice-Regional Representative Latin America

Shailesh Nayak, Regional Representative Asia

Mohammed Yahia Al Sayel, Regional Representative, Arab States

Abdalla Alobeid, Vice-Regional Representative Arab States

Qihao Weng, Editor-in-Chief ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing

Clément Mallet, Editor-in-Chief ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing

George Vosselman, Editor-in-Chief ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing

Martin Weinmann, Editor-in-Chief ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing

Wolfgang Kainz, Editor-in-Chief ISPRS Journal Geo-Information

Markus Englich, Web Master

Paulina Kujawa, Social Media Editor

Annette Radtke, ISPRS Headquarters

Dan Brooking-Coker, ISPRS Treasurer's Office

Songnian Li, Scientific Committee Chair

Shabnam Jabari, CSRS Technical Program Chair

Ahmed Shaker, Deputy Congress Director

Yuhong He, Awards Oversight Lead

Costas Armenakis, Forum Sessions Lead

Mozhdeh Shahbazi, Tutorial Sessions and Invited Speakers Lead

Mojgan Jadidi, Social and Technical Tours Lead

Dongmei Chen, Student Activities Lead

Wai Yeung Yan, Organizing Committee Member

Bob Ryerson, Organizing Committee Member

Saeid Homayouni, Organizing Committee Member

Mohamed Mostafa, Organizing Committee Member

Lincoln Xu, Organizing Committee Member

Des Power, Organizing Committee Member

Gordon Staples, Organizing Committee Member

Ge Cui, Organizing Committee Member

Hongzhou Yang, Organizing Committee Member

Jon Neufeld, Organizing Committee Member

Mir Abolfazl Mostafavi, Organizing Committee Member

Sasha Nasonova, Organizing Committee Member

Mabel Heffring, CRSS-SCT Student Chapters Director

Connie Ko, CRSS-SCT Awards

Tom Lukowski, CRSS-SCT Awards

THE ISPRS FOUNDATION AND CONGRESS TRAVEL GRANTS

In 2026, The ISPRS Foundation (TIF) has declared the recipients of its travel grants aimed at deserving students and young professionals who will attend the ISPRS Congress 2026. The Grant Evaluation Committee thoroughly examined all 229 applications received and identified 43 candidates as eligible for the travel grants.

Registration fees for TIF travel grant recipients from developing countries were supported through contributions from multiple funding partners. Their generous support enabled broader participation of students and young professionals in the ISPRS Congress 2026. Funding was provided by:

- Leaders Circle Grant, Destination Toronto
- Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary
- Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Taylor & Francis.

The recipients for 2026 are:

Mahmoud Ahmed	Netherlands
Melih Altay	Türkiye
Milad Bagheri	Italy
Lorenzo Beltrame	Austria
Manoj Biswanath	Germany
Yuwel Cal	United Kingdom
Sylvain Colomer	France
Rebeca C.E. da Silva	Brazil
Mehran Dadjoo	Canada
Chunqi Dai	Israel
Chaimaa Delasse	France
Pietro Di Stasio	Italy
Tatenda Dzurume	Netherlands
Abdelgwad Elashry	Egypt
Leandro Franca	Brazil
Amin Gholami	Poland
Said Harb	Germany
Zhimeng He	United Kingdom
Cale Andriane Herrera	Philippines
Jiyong Kim	United States
Ghaith Kouki	United States
Yu Lan	Germany
Zihan Liu	Germany
Sen Lyu	Germany
Antonio Gualtiero Mainardi	Italy
Oumayma Moufid	Morocco
Eduardo Soares Nascimento	Brazil
Nesisa Analisa Nyathi	Switzerland
Doris Obodoefuna	Canada
Simon Opravil	Slovakia
Ivana Petrovska	North Macedonia
Anandkumar Ramiya	India
Daniela Romero	Ecuador
Ghazaleh Serati	Canada
Deepika Sharma	India

Hanna Sorokina	Finland	**Dorota Włodarczyk**	Poland
Swetha Sureshkumar	India	**Haiyang Wu**	Netherlands
Geng Wang	Sweden	**Jingyi Yuan**	China
Tengfei Wang	China	**Tian Zhang**	Israel

THE XXV ISPRS CONGRESS PROFESSIONAL (NON-PRESENTER) STREAM TRAVEL AWARDS

This program supports early-career professionals (non-students, non-presenters) from eligible countries to attend the XXV ISPRS Congress in Toronto. This professional stream is designed to enhance the participation of geospatial practitioners from underrepresented regions who are not presenting papers, ensuring diverse knowledge exchange and professional development opportunities.

This program is made possible through generous support from:

- Leaders Circle Grant, Destination Toronto
- Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary
- Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Taylor & Francis.

The Congress award committee and regional sub-committees thoroughly examined all applications received and identified the following candidates as eligible for the travel awards:

Sileola Charles Asunbiaro	Nigeria	**Ahmed Elzein Eltaj Osman**	United Arab Emirates
Kehinde Adigun	Nigeria	**Rahisha Thottolil**	India
Rupesh Baniya	Nepal	**Silas Costa**	Brazil

THE XXV ISPRS CONGRESS PROFESSIONAL (NON-PRESENTER) STREAM TRAVEL AWARDS

This program supports early-career professionals (non-students, non-presenters) from eligible countries to attend the XXV ISPRS Congress in Toronto. This professional stream is designed to enhance the participation of geospatial practitioners from underrepresented regions who are not presenting papers, ensuring diverse knowledge exchange and professional development opportunities.

This program is made possible through generous support from:

- Leaders Circle Grant, Destination Toronto
- Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary
- Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Taylor & Francis.

The Congress award committee and regional sub-committees thoroughly examined all applications received and identified the following candidates as eligible for the travel awards:

Sileola Charles Asunbiaro	Nigeria
Kehinde Adigun	Nigeria
Rupesh Baniya	Nepal
Ahmed Elzein Eltaj Osman	United Arab Emirates
Rahisha Thottolil	India
Silas Costa	Brazil

THE XXV ISPRS CONGRESS EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

This program supports authors who are less than 35 years old from an ESA member state with a high-quality paper accepted for oral presentation. The Congress award committee selected the following recipients for 2026:

Olivier Dietrich	Switzerland	**Suvrat Kaushik**	France
Clay Taylor Harrison	Austria	**Yongjun Song**	Germany
Sulaiman Fayez Hotaki	Germany		

VAL SHAW MEMORIAL AWARD

The Val Shaw Memorial Award was established in 1990 in memory of Valerie Shaw, an executive with the Bercha Group and a strong proponent of remote sensing in Canada. The award recognizes lifelong achievement in practical remote sensing applied to natural resource management.

Monique Bernier

The Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CRSS-SCT) is pleased to recognize **Dr. Monique Bernier** as the recipient of the 2026 Val Shaw Memorial Award, honouring her lifelong contributions to remote sensing in Canada and internationally. Her career reflects sustained leadership, service, research excellence, and mentorship, carried out with humility and dedication.

Dr. Bernier has played a central role in advancing the remote sensing community. She served as President of both the Association Québécoise de Télédétection (AQT) and the Canadian Remote Sensing Society, contributed extensively to both organizations, and led the Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing as Editor-in-Chief. She also represented the community through the Federal Minister's Advisory Committee and contributed internationally through advisory roles with the European Space Agency and the Finnish Space Program.

A pioneer in the field, Dr. Bernier helped shape remote sensing in Canada through early policy efforts with the Canadian Advisory Committee on Remote Sensing and by leading the successful IGARSS 2014 / 35th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing in Quebec City. Her leadership also strengthened collaboration within Canada's geomatics community.

In the spirit of Val Shaw, Dr. Bernier is widely respected for her integrity, generosity, and commitment to others. She mentored generations of students, often supporting them as lead authors in publications. Her work in Nunavik reflects her dedication to collaboration, knowledge transfer, and community engagement. She also supported bilingual collaboration within CCRS, contributing to a more inclusive workplace.

Dr. Bernier's research reflects a commitment to practical remote sensing for natural resource management. From early work in crop monitoring using NOAA data, she has contributed to agriculture, soil moisture, and water resources, particularly through radar-based research on snow and ice. A recipient of the Larry Morley Gold Medal and the AQT Ferdinand Bonn Prize, Dr. Bernier exemplifies excellence in leadership, service, and scientific achievement, reflecting the values of the Val Shaw Memorial Award.

THE CRSS-SCT SILVER MEDAL AWARD

The CRSS Silver Medal Award was established in 2009 as a mid-career achievement award to recognize excellence in remote sensing in Canada. Nominations are invited for outstanding candidates from any sector (e.g. industry, government, university) who have made important and sustained contributions to remote sensing in Canada, typically for a period of more than 10 years.

Saeid Homayouni

The Canadian Remote Sensing Society is pleased to recognize **Dr. Saeid Homayouni** as the recipient of the 2026 CRSS Silver Medal.

Dr. Saeid Homayouni, Full Professor at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), was nominated for the CRSS-SCT Silver Medal Award in recognition of his sustained contributions to remote sensing in Canada through research, leadership, and service. As former students now working in government and academia, the nominators stressed how they have witnessed his strong and lasting impact.

Dr. Homayouni has maintained active engagement with the Canadian Remote Sensing Society. He serves as Director and Co-chair of Working Group 3 (Conferences and Publications) and co-chaired the 43rd Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing in 2022. Since 2019, he has been Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. His recent contributions include hosting the IEEE International Summer School on SAR Polarimetry (2025) and serving on the Organizing Committee for the ISPRS Congress 2026.

Beyond CRSS-SCT, he holds leadership roles across the community. He is President of the Quebec Chapter of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society, a member of the AQT Administration Council, and an external academic member of the Canadian Space Agency's Earth System Science Advisory Committee.

Dr. Homayouni has an outstanding record of training highly qualified personnel, mentoring numerous students and postdoctoral fellows now active in industry, government, and academia. Several have founded successful Canadian remote sensing start-ups, which he continues to support.

His research spans over two decades, addressing priorities such as wetland inventory development, Arctic ice monitoring, and precision agriculture, integrating remote sensing and artificial intelligence to solve applied environmental challenges.

Dr. Homayouni exemplifies the spirit of the CRSS-SCT Silver Medal Award through sustained research excellence and meaningful service to the Canadian remote sensing community.

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF REMOTE SENSING BEST PAPER AWARDS

The Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing (CJRS) Best Paper Awards recognize excellence in this peer-reviewed publication. The awards are presented during the Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing for the best papers (published in any category) in the prior year's volume of the CJRS. There are two awards: one for the Best Paper and one for the Second Best Paper. The CJRS Editorial Board, based upon nominations from reviewers, board members, or CRSS-SCT members, recommends the recipients for each award to the Chair of Working Group 4 (CRSS Awards and Fellows). The first author of the Best Paper receives a one-year CRSS-SCT membership.

CJRS Best Paper 2025

Projected Future Changes in Burn Probability in Canada's Forests and Communities Under Different Climate Change Scenarios

Christopher Mulverhill, Nicholas C. Coops, Michael A. Wulder, Txomin Hermosilla, Joanne C. White, and Christopher W. Bater

CJRS Second Best Paper 2025 (ex aequo)

Machine learning approaches to Landsat change detection analysis

Galen Richardson, Anders Knudby, Morgan A. Crowley, Michael Sawada and Wenjun Chen

Using Landsat time-series to investigate nearly 50 years of tree canopy cover change across an urban-rural landscape in southern Ontario

Mitchell T. Bonney and Yuhong He

NATIONAL BEST MASTER'S THESIS AND BEST PH.D. THESIS AWARDS

The CRSS-SCT presents Student Awards for the best theses at the Master's and Ph.D. levels. The recipients of these Awards are invited to attend the Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing held in the calendar year of the award for a thesis completed in the previous calendar year. The recipients receive $1500 from CRSS-SCT to support travel to the symposium.

Best Master's Thesis Award - completed in 2025

Simon Durand, Cartel U. Sherbrooke. *Détection automatisée du boeuf musqué (Ovibos moschatus) par réseaux neuronaux convolutifs appliqués à l'imagerie à très haute résolution spatiale*

Thesis Supervisors: Prof. Jérôme Théau & Prof. Samuel Foucher

Best Ph.D. Thesis Award - completed in 2025 (ex aequo)

Juliette Ortet, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. *Mesure et suivi des températures de surface et du pergélisol des milieux arctiques par télédétection satellite*

Thesis Supervisors: Prof. Alexandre Roy & Dr. Arnaud Mialon

Michael Allan Merchant, University of Guelph. *Enhanced Characterization of Wet Arctic Ecosystems using Earth Observation Satellite Data and Machine Learning*

Thesis Supervisors: Prof. Aaron Berg & Prof. Ben DeVries

CRSS-SCT SYMPOSIUM TRAVEL GRANTS

One CRSS-SCT Symposium Travel Grant of $1500 is being awarded to a student enrolled at a Canadian college or university (B.Sc., M.Sc., or Ph.D. level) to attend ISPRS2026 (XXV ISPRS Congress / 47th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing).

Travel Grant 2026

Mohammad Marjani, PhD student, Memorial University of Newfoundland

CRSS-SCT BEST STUDENT ORAL PAPER AND POSTER PAPER AWARDS

The Best Student Oral Paper Awards recognize exceptional papers presented by students at ISPRS2026 (XXV ISPRS Congress/47th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing).

CSRS BEST REVIEWER AWARD WINNERS

Desmond Power

Laura Chasmer

Shahram Sattar

Heather McGrath

Connie Ko