

## S-BAND SATELLITE GROUND STATION

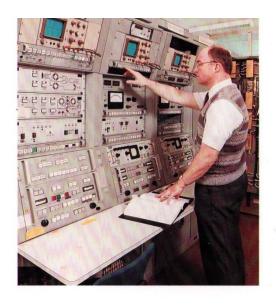
Telemetry

Tracking

Command



12 metre diameter antenna

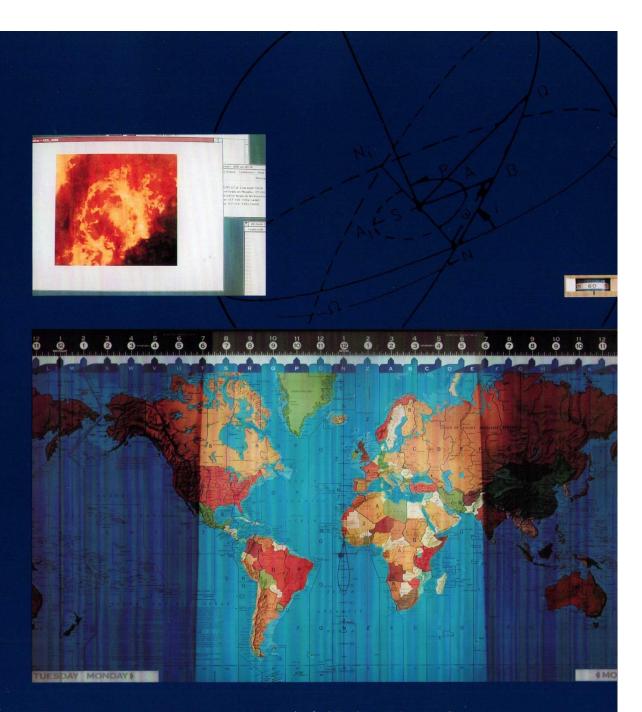


Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL), one of the establishments within the UK Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), provides support to University research groups working in many areas of science. As part of the British National Space Centre (BNSC), RAL Space Science Department maintains a working interface between universities, industry and international agencies, particularly the European Space Agency (ESA) and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The RAL Space Science Department is actively involved in many aspects of space research, notably in Astronomy, Solar Terrestrial Physics and Earth Observation. Its staff manage complex international satellite projects which require central test facilities, instrument design and development and a satellite control centre with data processing facilities.







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Rutherford Appleton Laboratory first operated its own Satellite Control Centre in 1974 for the British Ariel V and VI satellites and then as the primary ground station for the IRAS mission. Later it performed a similar role for the UK satellite within the international AMPTE mission. These programmes have created a large body of experience at RAL in the control of spacecraft and the experiments which they carry.



