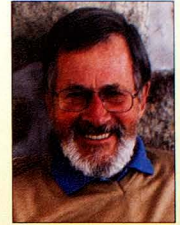


Editorial



This issue includes a widespread range of contributions from data management to law of the sea. From Brian Calder and his colleagues we have yet another seminal paper on a data management subject. This time, dealing with high-precision, high-accuracy, time keeping. There are two interesting papers discussing tidal matters in this issue. They are interesting for different reasons. A paper from Nigeria discusses the dilemma of developing countries in providing a complete range of navigation and hydrographic services. While the technical quality of the paper may not be new or innovative it does report on a successful development of a tidal product, in spite of difficult political conditions. The other tidal paper from a Chinese university source, discusses the development of a new approach to provide greater precision to tidal reduction. Yet another contribution from the University of New Hampshire is the discussion on development of a mosaicing tool for aerial imagery from a lidar survey.

As lidar gains increasing use such tools lead to greater flexibility of its use. A small but determined group of mainly geologists and geophysicists concern themselves with the mapping of the deep oceans. In spite of the development of multibeam systems the data for wide expanses of the deep oceans remains scant and very variable in quality. A paper from Swedish authors discusses the development of data models and management for bringing together data from a great range of quality. While much attention has been given in recent years to the management of data from inshore sources, which is generally dense and of high quality, a need to manage the deep ocean data deserves the attention that is reported in this paper. Finally a contribution from a Canadian geodesist discusses his involvement as a specialist in the maritime boundary delimitation between Guyana and Suriname. This boundary was decided by judgement of a tribunal acting under the auspices of the Permanent Court their data of Arbitration. In establishing precisely the terminal point of the boundary it was necessary that the expert advised on the situation by survey measurements and activities in the field.

It is of overall interest how much of this issue has been from contributions from academic institutions rather than the hydrographic offices themselves. Perhaps this indicates that much of the hydrographic development today is carried out externally to these government institutions, which nowadays concentrate on the administrative side of the profession, particularly on the marketing of their data holdings.

