
TIGHAR In Space

TIGHAR has contracted with Space Imaging, Inc. of Thornton, Colorado for dedicated satellite imagery of Nikumaroro to be acquired this spring by the company's Lockheed/Martin IKONOS satellite. Two photographs of the island will be taken from space:

- **A black and white image with one meter resolution (meaning that we should be able to pick out objects as small as one meter across).**
- **A natural color image with four meter resolution.**

We're hoping that this imagery will allow us to focus the work of the Niku III expedition more efficiently and increase our chances of making a conclusive find. Space Imaging will guarantee that cloud cover in the photos is no more than 20% of the total image and they'll keep trying until they get acceptable cover-

age. However, there is always the chance that "Murphy's Cloud" will be sitting right over a part of the island we want to see. If that happens we'll have spent a lot of money to get nice pictures of blue water.

Acquiring the imagery will cost \$6,000, payable upon delivery of the photos which, if the first pass is successful, should be sometime in late April. That money is not in the Niku III budget but we felt that it was a chance well worth taking and are hoping that the TIGHAR membership agrees with us and will help support this mission. In appreciation for helping us meet this extra expense, we'll send an 8x10 copy of the color satellite photo of Nikumaroro to everyone who kicks in \$100. Just use the enclosed Niku III contribution card and jot a note that you want your donation to go toward the satellite photos.