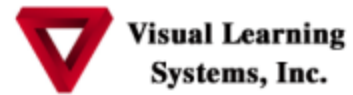


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### **Feature Analyst Provides Real-World and Classroom Solutions for SDSU**

MISSOULA, Montana – San Diego State University (SDSU) faculty and students are taking advantage of the benefits of Visual Learning Systems' automated feature extraction software over a wide spectrum of research and classroom applications. The SDSU Geography Department purchased a departmental license of the Feature Analyst™ extension for ArcGIS® in Spring 2002. Since that time, Feature Analyst has been incorporated into the curriculum of remote sensing and GIS courses and into advanced research projects. "Feature Analyst is a powerful leading-edge tool we are using for an abundance of feature extraction and image classification applications," says SDSU Professor Doug Stow. "Our students have found Feature Analyst both easy to learn and use. Most of the students become proficient in extracting objects quite quickly and soon move into developing their own customized extraction models."

SDSU is one of nine universities across the United States chosen by NASA as an Affiliated Research Center, or ARC university. The Department of Geography at SDSU is a leader in the fields of remote sensing and geographic information systems research. Researchers are continuously seeking cutting-edge technology to address the challenges of extracting geospatial information from imagery. Feature Analyst's impressive combination of accuracy, speed, and ease of use is enabling SDSU researchers to tackle complex mapping problems such as the extraction of footpaths to help our Nation's Border Patrol. "Based on what I am seeing, I anticipate that many agencies will be adopting Feature Analyst as a basic adjunct to their GIS operations," states SDSU NASA ARC Program Coordinator John Kaiser.

Feature Analyst technology, in partnership with leading academic institutions like SDSU, is changing the way many mapping tasks are performed and leading the way into the future of GIS and image processing. "Our students are using Feature Analyst for extracting roads, trails, habitat disturbance, mapping pervious versus impervious surfaces, different vegetation classes, and even counting people on our local beaches." adds Kaiser. "We are pleased with the addition of Change Detection to Feature Analyst. This is of particular importance to nature resource managers at local, regional, and state levels."

The unmatched power of Feature Analyst, such as its unique ability to incorporate spatial association, naturally lends itself to advanced feature extraction in research labs; however, it may be its ease-of-use that has made the product popular with academic and research organizations worldwide. "We have designed the Feature Analyst to be easy to learn and provided an excellent tutorial from which course material can be developed," said Senior Software Engineer Ian Carlson. "Many of our clients have said, 'it's so easy, how can it be that powerful,' and to me, that's the highest compliment." Evaluation copies of Feature Analyst are available @ [www.featureanalyst.com](http://www.featureanalyst.com).