CSULB, Russians in space accord

y Susan Pack
taff writer

LONG BEACH — Russian pace technology may soon be ıptured by California State Uni-ersity/Long Beach.

A tentative agreement to ıtablish a space data repository as reached this week between ıe university's School of Engi-eering and International Sensys orp. (ISC), which includes three ussian space technology compa-ies, ISC Chairman T. Craig schrich announced Thursday.

"This Russian technology ansfer is unprecedented in U.S. ıademic-commercial joint ven-ıres," he said. "We're not just ıtting what's on the menu. 'e're getting the whole cook-book."

Well, maybe not the secret sauce. Soviet spy technology won't be dished out to the United States. Nor will NASA technology be handed to the Soviets on a silver platter.

The Russian Space Agency already has tentatively approved the agreement, which calls for a similar repository at the Russian Medical Library in Moscow. The agreement still must be approved by CSULB President Bob Maxson.

"I'm very excited about the prospect, but we don't have enough details to finalize it at this time," Maxson said Thursday.

The repository will ensure that the technology won't be lost if relations between Russia and the United States deteriorate.

"We needed to have a repository for the intellectual resources in the extreme event political instability denied us access," said Eschrich, a Fullerton attorney.

Currently stored on magnetic tape, the Russian data is being converted so it can be inputted on CD-ROM. Data transfer is expected to begin as soon as Sept. 1. Students, professors and ICS employees will then be able to access the data by computer.

The data will include such technologies as space platform design, antenna, orbit-sustaining propulsion, battery, miniaturization and ground-based communications systems.

Formed in January, ISC is developing a $250 million commercial satellite system that can track everything from intermodal containers to stolen cars, he said. Items to be tracked will ... tagged with a small electr... device.

For example, an electronic tag concealed in a car could transmit the message, "I've been stolen." The return message would order, "Shut off the engine." The vehicle then would be electronically disabled, thwarting escape.

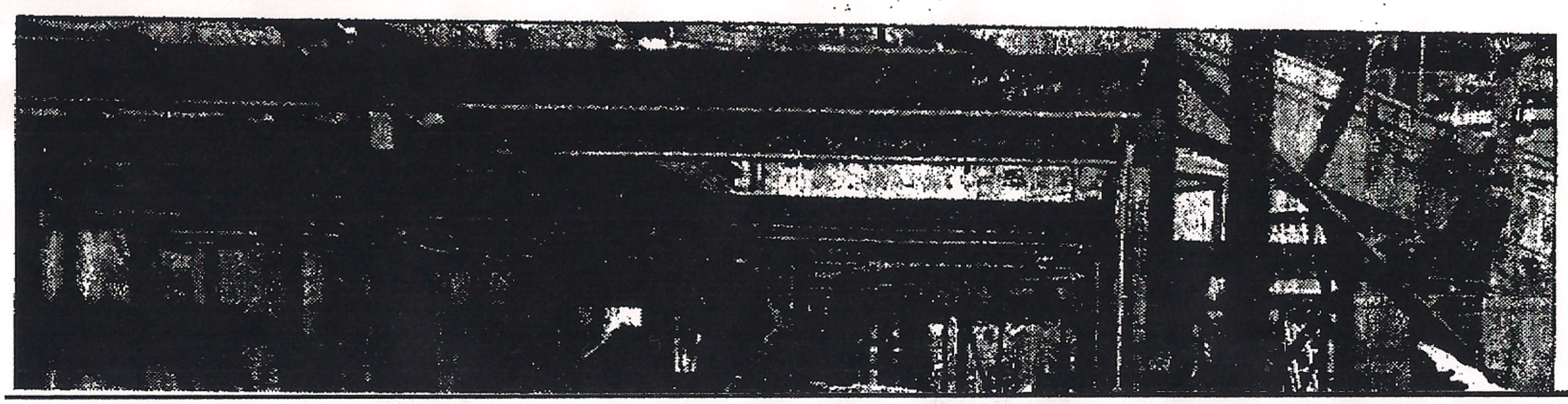
"This repository is only a stepping stone," Eschrich said. "The use of this technology is limitless."

CSULP was selected for the space data repository because it's located in a high-tech hub and has a good track record of public-private partnerships, he said.

...ill give students hands-on experience in the practical applications of technology," he said.

Although the Federal Communications Commission still has to grant ISC frequency allocations, Eschrich predicts the venture will create 250 to 1,000 jobs beginning this year. ISC plans to employ workers ... and throughout the ...orld to produce the elect...nic tags and operate t... ...acking stations.

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