



Colin Franklin - nominated by IEEE Canada for the Julian C. Smith Medal

Colin Franklin was chief electrical engineer for Canada's first satellite, the Alouette topside sounder, named by the Canadian government as one of the ten most outstanding achievements of Canadian engineering in the country's first century. He was subsequently chief engineer for the ISIS series of scientific satellites and head of the Space Electronics Laboratory at the Defense Research Telecommunications Establishment (DRTE) in Ottawa. In 1993, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers designated the Alouette / ISIS program an International Milestone of Electrical Engineering. After fulfilling the role of chief engineer on the very successful ISIS satellites, Colin Franklin became Project Manager for the communications technology satellite Hermes, the forerunner of the direct-to-home TV broadcast satellites.

Turning his talents beyond project management and technical design, Colin chaired the NRC University Grants Committee for Electrical Engineering and produced the 1976 Department of Communications report leading to Canadian cooperation with the European Space Agency. He carried on at the Ministry of State for Science and Technology to contribute to plans for a Canadian Space Agency and for the first Long Term Space Plan which underwrote Canadian participation in the International Space Station and the Mobile Communications Satellite (MSAT) and the remote sensing RADARSAT-1. Colin later became Director General of Space Programs and then Director General of Space and Industry Development Programs in the Department of Communications.

In the last century our beloved country was bound together by rails of steel; today Canada is tied by space-borne communications and remote sensing, materially advanced by Colin Franklin. He dared to undertake very difficult challenges in space, and then exhibited brilliance in implementing the agreed projects. He inspired technical experts and laymen alike in demonstrating what Canada could achieve, and helped lay the groundwork for the next generation of space enthusiasts. Tonight we take great delight in honoring Colin Franklin's myriad contributions to the development of Canada by awarding him this medal.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. President, as the Recipient of the Julian C. Smith Medal, please welcome Colin Franklin.