NASA Technology

- Controlled flight into terrain poses a threat to pilots in bad weather, fog, or nighttime flights
- To improve aviation safety for pilots in poor visibility, NASA began exploring the possibilities of synthetic vision—creating a realistic graphical display of the terrain outside for use by the pilot

Partnership

- Langley partnered with TerraMetrics through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program to develop 3D terrain rendering technology
- To produce its visuals, TerraMetrics relied on Stennis’ Scientific Data Purchase Program
- The company created a special graphical representation of the Moon for NASA to test flight simulators and even lunar lander vehicles

Benefits

- TerraMetrics commercialized the technology as the TruEarth satellite imagery and terrain data product line
- Its imagery powers Google Earth and Google Maps software
- The technology is also well suited for online mapping and flight deck display programs