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Remote Sensing of Clouds and the Atmosphere XIX; and Optics in Atmospheric Propagation and Adaptive Systems XVII

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Introduction to Part A: Remote Sensing of Clouds and the Atmosphere XIX

The desire to improve our understanding of the Earth's climate is at an all-time high and this, along with other critical needs, requires development of advanced remote-sensing instruments and corresponding innovative retrievals. A rich diversity of related topics was covered in the Remote Sensing of Clouds and Atmosphere Conference with 44 presenters from Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. A large international participation (15 countries were represented) clearly demonstrated a high level of worldwide interest in the current state of remote sensing, its impressive applications, and future directions. Engaging and high-quality presentations from participants during three oral and one poster sessions formed the heart of the conference—which included both talented early career researchers and distinguished senior scientists. In particular, two invited speakers, Prof. Mace (University of Utah, United States) and Prof. Petäjä (University of Helsinki, Finland), covered a remarkably diverse range of topics within the conference charter and stimulated active and fruitful discussions. The meeting was held in Amsterdam, a delightful city with numerous picturesque bridges over the city's canals. Similar to previous SPIE conferences, this conference in Amsterdam offered invaluable "bridges" in terms of science and human connections, and fostered an encouraging environment for sharing ideas and findings with other researchers from around the world. We are indebted to all participants for their valuable contributions and the SPIE Organizing Committee and hosting organizers from the Netherlands for a smoothly managed and well-organized conference. These contributions and hospitality formed a true team effort that resulted in a conference that was both enjoyable and highly successful.

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