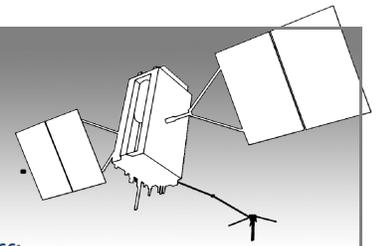


GPS

T · R · A · C · K · E · R



Information for Policymakers from the National Coordination Office
for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT)

MAY 2009

FY 2010 Presidential Budget Summary: GPS and Related Systems

The President's budget would fully fund the nation's space-based PNT infrastructure, including: the Global Positioning System; new, civil-unique GPS capabilities; Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS); Local Area Augmentation System (LAAS); Nationwide Differential GPS (NDGPS); and Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS). The budget details can be found at <http://pnt.gov/policy/legislation/bills.shtml#pb2010>.

Congressional Outreach Event on Civil GPS

On April 28, the National Coordination Office (NCO) organized a briefing to congressional staff on the importance of GPS to U.S. civilian and economic infrastructures. Representatives from the NCO, United Airlines, and Qualcomm spoke about the integral role GPS plays in aviation safety and efficiency, telecommunications, transport tracking, and enhanced 911 services. The event also featured a hands-on demonstration of GPS technology organized by the creators of the "GPS Adventures" science exhibit and volunteers from the Maryland Geocaching Society. To view materials and presentations from the event, visit <http://pnt.gov/public/2009/04/hill/>.

GAO Report on GPS Continuity and Modernization Efforts

The GAO released a report on May 7 identifying challenges facing the GPS program, including sustainment of the 24 satellite service, and satellite modernization costs overruns and schedule delays. The full report is available at <http://gao.gov/products/GAO-09-325>.

House Oversight Hearing on GPS

On May 7, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, held a hearing on the GAO report. Witnesses from the Departments of Defense and Transportation acknowledged the challenges facing the GPS program, but assured the committee that the Air Force is taking appropriate measures to ensure continuity of service for military and civil users. Testimonies are available at <http://nationalsecurity.oversight.house.gov/story.asp?ID=2422>.

Air Force Statement in Response to GAO Report

On May 22, the Air Force issued a public statement reiterating its commitment to GPS service. In the statement, Gen. Robert Kehler asserts, "I have high confidence we will continue to sustain at least the 24 satellites required to maintain our current performance standard." The full text is available at <http://www.afspc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123150739>.

Application Spotlight: Construction

Today's construction industry relies on GPS to reduce surveying times, automate machinery, and track equipment and materials. GPS reduces fuel use and increases safety at work sites by improving navigation and situational awareness. Construction companies use professional-grade GPS equipment capable of delivering 2-5 centimeter accuracy within a local area of operations. To learn more about the important role GPS plays in surveying and construction, visit <http://www.qps.gov/applications/survey>.



SPACE-BASED POSITIONING
NAVIGATION & TIMING
NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE

WWW.PNT.GOV

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE FOR SPACE-BASED PNT, THE CENTRAL NODE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT FOR GPS-RELATED POLICY MATTERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.PNT.GOV. CONTACT STEVE SIDOREK AT STEVEN.SIDOREK@PNT.GOV OR 202-482-5838 TO REQUEST EMAIL LIST ADDITIONS, REMOVALS, OR CHANGES.