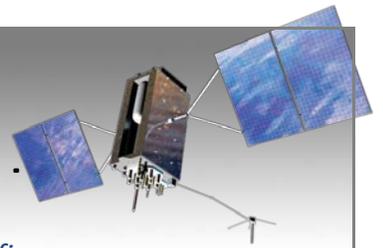


GPS

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

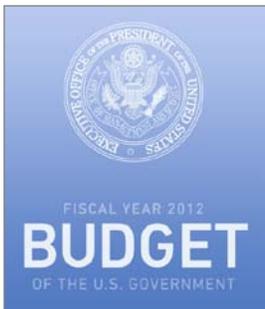
March 2011

Studies Under Way on Potential GPS Interference from Broadband Wireless System

On January 26, the FCC gave permission to LightSquared Subsidiary LLC to reuse its authorized “L-band” satellite spectrum to build out a ground-based, wireless broadband network. The base stations would transmit high-power signals in frequencies immediately adjacent to the GPS signals.

Prior to the FCC action, several federal agencies and industry groups expressed concern about potential interference to millions of existing GPS users. The FCC has ordered the company to organize a working group involving the GPS community to identify measures to prevent harmful interference to GPS. Independently, the government’s National Space-Based PNT Systems Engineering Forum will produce a report to the National Executive Committee for Space-Based PNT and will collaborate with LightSquared. The company cannot offer a terrestrial service in its L-band frequencies until the FCC concludes that the interference concerns have been resolved. LightSquared must submit its final report to the FCC by June 15.

President’s FY 2012 Budget Includes GPS Funding



The Administration has requested that the Air Force receive \$1.462 billion for the GPS program in FY 2012. This is a roughly \$400 million increase over the FY 2011 request, with the additional funds going toward the procurement of the future GPS IIIA satellites.

In addition to the defense funding, the FAA has requested \$50.3 million to add new, civil unique capabilities to the GPS program.

These include a fourth civil GPS signal and the ground segment upgrades needed to monitor all civil GPS signals.

The FAA budget request also includes \$126.5 million for the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) and \$13.5 million for the Local Area Augmentation System (LAAS). Finally, the President’s budget allocates \$7.6 million in DOT funds for the inland part of the Nationwide Differential GPS System (NDGPS). For detailed budget information, visit <http://www.pnt.gov/congress/>.

Did You Know? GPS Jamming Is Illegal



The FCC recently announced new efforts to clamp down on illegal radio jamming devices. Federal law prohibits the operation, marketing, or sale of any type of jamming equipment, including devices that interfere with GPS and cell phones.

Jamming devices are radio frequency transmitters that intentionally block, jam, or interfere with lawful radio services, such as GPS. Increasingly, online retailers tout small, inexpensive jammers as the solution for noisy classrooms, theaters, restaurants, or business meetings. However, jammers are indiscriminate—they can block critical public safety and other emergency operations along with the targeted transmissions.

To learn more about the FCC’s new jamming enforcement campaign, visit www.fcc.gov/eb/jammerenforcement.



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