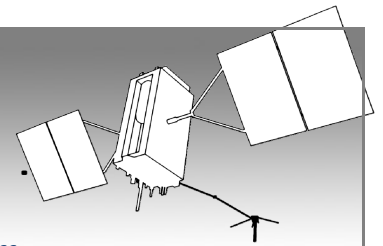


GPS

T · R · A · C · K · E · R



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

December 2009

FY 2010 Civil GPS Funding Signed into Law

On December 16, the President signed the FY 2010 consolidated appropriations bill (H.R. 3288), which includes \$43.4 million in FAA funds to add new, civil-unique capabilities to the Global Positioning System (GPS). The measure also provides \$91 million for FAA's Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS), \$7 million for FAA's Local Area Augmentation System (LAAS), and \$4.6 million for the inland part of the Nationwide Differential GPS system (NDGPS). These augmentations enhance GPS for transportation safety. More information can be found at <http://pnt.gov/policy/legislation/funding/2010.shtml>.

DoD Approps Bill on Track to Cut GPS Program

The House passed the conference version of the FY 2010 defense appropriations bill (H.R. 3326) on December 16. The spending measure provides the Air Force with \$830.4 million for the GPS program, \$97.4 million below the President's budget request. The appropriators did not fully fund the Next-Generation Operational Control Segment (OCX) for GPS III due to contracting delays. To learn more, visit <http://pnt.gov/policy/legislation/funding/2010.shtml>.

Congress Assigns GPS Report to National Executive Committee for Space-Based PNT

The FY 2010 defense authorization bill (P.L. 111-84), signed in October, amends the congressional reporting requirement for the GPS program at 10 U.S.C. §2281(d). The new law shifts responsibility for the biennial GPS report from the Secretary of Defense to the co-chairs of the National Executive Committee for Space-Based PNT. The 2008 version of the report is available at <http://pnt.gov/public/docs/#reports>.

Hill Paves Way for Loran-C Termination

Consistent with the congressional direction in the FY 2010 DHS appropriations act (P.L. 111-83), DHS is preparing to shut down the legacy Loran-C navigation system next month. The Coast Guard has certified that this will not impair maritime safety. The DHS Secretary must still certify that Loran-C infrastructure is not needed as a GPS backup. Loran-C termination does not foreclose future development of a national GPS backup such as "eLoran" that leverages Loran-C infrastructure. In October, the House passed its Coast Guard authorization bill (H.R. 3619), including further direction to terminate Loran-C. The bill is awaiting full Senate consideration.

Application Spotlight: Agriculture

So-called "precision agriculture" techniques have revolutionized the way American farms operate. GPS-based surveying and mapping help farmers optimize the placement of crop rows to maximize land use. It also helps them plan irrigation systems and precisely level fields to reduce runoff.



Automated machinery with high-precision GPS guidance can prepare soil, plant seeds, and apply nutrients at high speeds using less skilled workers. GPS-based crop and soil monitoring allows site- or plant-specific applications of water, fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide, thereby increasing crop yields, reducing material and labor costs, and limiting environmental impacts.

During harvest, GPS automation allows 24 hour operations, reducing the loss of crops to spoilage. The extended operating hours also enable farms to use lighter equipment, reducing expenses, fuel use, and emissions.

To learn more about the role of GPS in agriculture, visit <http://www.qps.qov>.



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.