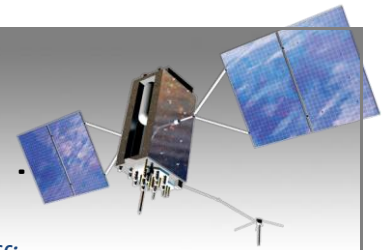


GPS

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



November 2011

Small Business Committee Highlights Interference Concerns of Commercial GPS Users



On October 12, the House Small Business Committee held a hearing on the potential impacts of LightSquared's 4G wireless network on small businesses that rely on GPS. Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) said U.S. firms would incur enormous costs if required to replace or retrofit their current GPS devices as a result of LightSquared interference. Witnesses from the Agriculture Retailers Association, Aircraft Electronics Association, and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association called for more testing to better understand the interference effects. A LightSquared executive restated

his company's offer to cover \$50 million in federal precision receiver upgrade costs, but said GPS manufacturers should pay to replace or retrofit commercial user equipment. Hearing testimony is available at smallbusiness.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=263152.

Next Round of LightSquared Testing Now Under Way

Last month, the National Space-Based PNT Systems Engineering Forum worked with LightSquared to begin a new round of GPS interference testing using LightSquared's revised radio transmission plan. The testing, to be completed by November 30, is limited to GPS-based cell phones and other personal/general navigation devices. High-precision GPS equipment will be assessed in a subsequent round of tests expected in early 2012. LightSquared's January 2011 authorization from the FCC is conditioned on the resolution of harmful GPS interference concerns. Learn more about LightSquared and GPS at <http://www.pnt.gov/interference/lightsquared>.

FCC Cracks Down on Sales of Illegal GPS Jamming Devices



On September 30, the FCC issued enforcement actions against 20 online retailers in 12 states for illegally marketing GPS jammers and other radio frequency jamming devices, which pose serious risks to critical public safety communications and 911 emergency calls. The FCC followed up with a citation to another retailer on October 17. "Our actions should send a strong message to retailers of signal jamming devices that we will not tolerate continued violations of federal law," said FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Michele Ellison. For details on the enforcement actions, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/jammer-enforcement>.

GPS.gov: A One-Stop GPS Resource for Hill Staff



We've just made it easier to find key legislative information about GPS. Visit GPS.gov and click "For Congress" to get up to date on:

- GPS appropriations status, including all DoD/civil line items
- Other bills affecting GPS, including legislation on LightSquared
- Hearings on GPS issues
- GPS-related reports to Congress
- Back issues of this newsletter

GPS.gov now includes all of the legislative materials we previously published at PNT.gov. We hope you find the new site useful.



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