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

May 5, 2014

Air Force Adds Navigation Data to Modernized Civil GPS Signals

On April 28, the Air Force began broadcasting civil navigation (CNAV) messages on all operational GPS satellites capable of transmitting the L2C and L5 signals. L2C and L5 are the first of several new civil capabilities being added as part of the GPS modernization program. The L2C signal is designed to meet commercial needs and L5 to meet safety-of-life transportation requirements. These pre-operational signals are primarily used to test equipment and should be employed at the users' own risk; not used for safety-of-life or other critical purposes. For more information on Civil GPS Signals, visit www.gps.gov/systems/gps/modernization.

Air Force Orders Production of Two Additional GPS III Satellites



On March 31, the Air Force awarded Lockheed Martin a contract modification worth \$246 million for production of the seventh and eighth satellites in the next-generation GPS III constellation. GPS III satellites are designed to provide more accurate navigation signals that are also more resistant to interference. Work on the seventh and eighth GPS III satellites is expected to be completed in April 2018 and October 2018. To learn more about GPS III satellites, visit www.gps.gov/systems/gps/space.

House Passes Bill Containing Language that Promotes Potential GPS Backup System

On April 1, 2014, the House passed the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (H.R. 4005), including a provision which bars the dismantling or disposal of LORAN infrastructure for one year unless the DHS Secretary certifies it is not required to provide a backup to GPS. The provision also authorizes agreements with other public or private entities to develop Enhanced LORAN (eLoran). The bill has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee where it awaits further action. For additional bill information, visit www.gps.gov/policy/legislation/loran-c.

Senator Franken Reintroduces Legislation to Protect Personal Location Information

Minnesota Senator Al Franken has reintroduced the Location Privacy Protection Act, a bill he originally sponsored in the 112th Congress. The bill would prohibit companies from collecting or disclosing geolocation information from a communications device without the user's consent. It provides exceptions for parents tracking their children, emergency services, law enforcement, and other cases. The bill would also prohibit development and distribution of "stalking apps" and take other steps to prevent geolocation-enabled violence against women. The bill has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. To learn more about this and similar bills, visit www.gps.gov/policy/legislation/gps-act.

New Legislative Liaison Joins GPS Coordination Office



Chris Mindnich recently joined the National Coordination Office as its legislative liaison. Please feel free to reach out to him as your point of contact

for any GPS related inquires or to request a briefing on GPS. You can reach him at chris.mindnich@gps.gov or 202-482-2004.



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