

Exploring the IGS Network: Engaging with the Global GNSS Community

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SUMMARY

The International GNSS Service is a voluntary federation of government agencies and research institutions working together to provide, on an openly accessible basis, the highest quality GNSS data, products and services that are used to enable a better understanding of the Earth and support applications that provide benefit to science and society. The core activities focused on within the IGS community are the delivery of the global reference frame, and the provision of clock, orbit and atmospheric models to support precise positioning applications. At the foundation of all IGS products and services is the ground station tracking network - a globally distributed network of over 500 continuously operating reference stations. While most of these stations have been established to support local or national applications, they all have been designed to meet specific criteria, which align to the requirements of the core IGS products and services. This means stations will have stable monumentation and geodetic quality antennas and receivers.

As outlined in the IGS 2021+ Strategic Plan, the highest priority for the IGS is transitioning towards the development of multi-GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) products and services. Additionally, ongoing advocacy and engagement initiatives supported by the IGS are investigating leveraging IGS data to underpin applications benefiting society, such as climate monitoring and disaster risk reduction. In this way, IGS explores the expanding role of GNSS for both in-situ and remote sensing “added value” applications, in addition to supporting sustainable and resilient GNSS for positioning, navigation, and timing.

The IGS has identified gaps in its network and has pinpointed specific areas of interest, with a particular emphasis on the African continent. The organization is actively engaged in expanding outreach to these areas - providing an opportunity to network with regional communities and sharing with them the benefits of contributing to the IGS.

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