

National Geodetic Survey: 2012 Strategic Plan

“Strategic Goals and Tactical Milestones Looking Forward 3 Years”

NGS Mission:

To define, maintain, and provide access to the National Spatial Reference System to meet our nation’s economic, social, and environmental needs”

Strategic Goal #1: Modernize the 3-D Geometric Reference System:

Prepare the user community before, during, and after implementation of the new geometric reference system, providing outreach and education, tools, specifications, and guidelines.

Beginning in 2012, install foundation CORS annually based on plan and budget to improve the US contribution to the International Terrestrial Reference Frame.

Provide users with tools and education to obtain accurate coordinates in all three dimensions and to deal with coordinate changes due to crustal motion.

Decide on the level of service, if any, NGS will provide in low latency GNSS data distribution.

Develop the capability to process more types of current GNSS data.

Implement a process to produce predicted GPS orbits once every six hours.

Define and implement a process for RTN operators to ensure their networks are compliant with the NSRS.

Complete adjustment of passive control into the following three datums, in order to provide stakeholders with consistent coordinates between active and passive control:

NAD 83(2011) epoch 2010.00

NAD 83(PA11) epoch 2010.00

NAD 83(MA11) epoch 2010.00

Strategic Goal #2: Modernize the Geopotential (“Vertical”) Reference System:

Prepare the user community before, during, and after implementation of the new vertical datum through a combined effort of the NGS’s National Height Modernization Program with outreach and education, tools, specifications, and guidelines.

Complete 36% by 2014 of all GRAV-D (Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum) areas, including flights, data processing and merging with existing terrestrial data, storage and dissemination to the public (with no more than 12 month latency).

Establish and publish the geoid theory necessary to achieve <1 cm absolute accuracy, for all non-mountainous regions of the United States, allowing for rock density unknowns in the mountains, and with unknowns not exceeding 1 cm at the coast.

Make the online leveling adjustment tool, LOCUS, fully operational and submit proposal for its future upgrades.

Continue to develop and support the vertical datum in the continental United States including tying to local tidal and water level datums.

Strategic Goal #3: Migrate the Coastal Mapping Program Toward Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM):

Develop and enhance collaborative partnerships with Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector to streamline operations, improve efficiencies, develop common standards, and stimulate innovation in ocean and coastal mapping.

Test and evaluate remote sensing platforms, sensors, and data products as they become available.

Complete and evaluate at least one IOCM demonstration project per year and, if applicable, incorporate findings into operational improvements

Develop and test standards, specifications, and workflows for new coastal geospatial products, including orthomosaics and lidar data by end of 2013. Based on the results, develop policies, procedures and guidelines to integrate the IOCM program in to NGS operations.

Establish and connect, in collaboration with partners, Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) at tide and water level stations.

Support national expansion of VDatum and upgrades to existing models as necessary.

Strategic Goal #4: Maintain and Develop Core Capabilities:

Develop a plan for, and implement a functional realignment of NGS divisions to better align core capabilities with division functions and NGS priorities.

Support student internships, visiting scientists, and training of existing employees.

Write and adopt a Strategic Plan for the Aeronautical Survey Program (ASP) and develop strategies to increase number of customers using NGS ASP products and services.

Define what Field Operations core capabilities NGS requires to accomplish mission critical tasks now and into the future and develop a plan to improve the cohesiveness of all field operations.

Strategic Goal #5: Increase Agency Visibility

Design and implement strategic training and outreach programs to anticipate and satisfy customer and partner needs.

Leverage internal NOAA partnerships to reach a broader customer base, and adjust our suite of products and services to ensure a customer focus and product usability.

Quantify the socio-economic benefits of core NGS products and services.

Formalize a system and a process for understanding existing and evolving customer / stakeholder requirements, including emerging non-traditional requirements, and align products and services to suit their needs.