



NSRS Modernization News

Issue 1 September 2015

Intent

Welcome to the inaugural edition of NSRS Modernization News. The National Geodetic Survey intends to issue this newsletter regularly to provide brief updates to the user community of the National Spatial Reference System about the modernization of the National Spatial Reference System. These changes are detailed in the National Geodetic Survey's Ten Year Strategic Plan. The cornerstone projects of this modernization are the replacement of NAD 83 and NAVD 88, but surrounding those two major projects are multiple related improvements to NGS products and services.

Most of the content of these newsletters will focus on the new reference frames which will replace NAD 83 and NAVD 88.

Up Until This Point

The last significant updates from NGS, prior to this newsletter, came from the following sources:

2010: First Federal Geospatial Summit on modernizing the NSRS held in Silver Spring, MD. Discussions with the user community about replacing NAD 83 and NAVD 88 yielded significant information to help guide NGS:

<http://geodesy.noaa.gov/2010Summit/>

2013: NGS issues the Ten Year Strategic Plan (2013-2023), which was an update to its previous Ten Year Plan (2007-2017)

<http://geodesy.noaa.gov/INFO/tenyearfinal.shtml>

April 2015: Federal Geospatial Summit held in Arlington, Virginia. This second summit allowed NGS to provide an update to the plans for the NSRS as well as receive new feedback from the community

<http://geodesy.noaa.gov/2015GeospatialSummit/>

Personnel Changes

A number of leadership changes have happened at NGS in the last few months which will impact the NGS mission, and specifically the modernization of the NSRS. Please note:

Dr. Dru Smith has been named to the newly created position of NSRS Modernization Manager. Under this new title, Dr. Smith will be primary responsible for the management and execution of projects related to Goal 2 of the NGS Ten Year Strategic Plan.

Dr. Neil Weston has been named to the position of Chief Geodesist. Dr. Weston will be responsible for the stewardship of all science within NGS.

New Projects

Since the April 2015 Federal Geospatial Summit, a number of new projects have been initiated at NGS. Many of these projects will build a foundation for other projects which will ultimately result in the release of new reference frames (both geometric and geopotential) by 2022.

A small sample of the newly initiated projects and their project managers are:

Geometric Transformation Consistency: Updating NADCON, and making NADCON and GEOCON consistent and available in a seamless geodetic toolkit. (Dr. Dru Smith)

OPUS-Projects to NGS IDB: Deriving a valid method by which OPUS-Projects may be used to replace the current Bluebooking process for GPS. (Dr. Mark Schenewerk)

Dynamic Heights from GPS: Determining the accuracy of GPS-derived dynamic heights without leveling, for use in IGLD2020 (Dr. Daniel Roman)