



# NSRS Modernization News

Issue 21 July 2020

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[geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml](http://geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml)

## Delay

As mentioned in last month's special issue of the NSRS Modernization News, the roll-out of the modernized NSRS is being delayed beyond 2022. More details are available on our [New Datums](#) page.

## Geospatial Data Act Update

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) codified many aspects of the management of U.S. National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA) by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). For Geodetic Control, this includes the NOAA CORS Network (NCN), GRAV-D aerogravity, geoid height models, and the extensive passive control database. This was managed previously by Executive Orders and the OMB Circular A-16. The GDA codified this into public law and requires that NGDA Geodetic Control datasets be subject to biennial audits by the Department of Commerce Inspector General and reports to Congress. Annual reports are still required. In particular, the NCN will provide access to and maintenance of the modernized NSRS. Hence, implementation of the GDA is shaping how the NSRS Modernization will be realized now and in the future. It is evolving, so look for updates at later dates.

## Progress in ongoing Projects

There are currently **24 ongoing projects** directly related to NSRS modernization around NGS.

Here is a highlight from one:

## Annual xGEOID production (Project Manager: Dr. Yan Wang)

NGS is working closely with the Canadian Geodetic Survey (CGS) to compute, and jointly release xGEOID20, the first jointly computed geoid model between the two agencies. The scheduled release of this model is planned for September 15, 2020. The joint xGEOID20 model will be created by blending two preliminary geoid models, one computed by NGS and one computed by CGS.

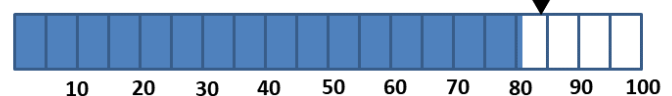
While initial tests indicate that the CGS and NGS approaches to geoid modeling agree at the 2 cm (overall) for the entire North American region, there are areas of significant disagreement remaining.

Therefore, **NGS will not be releasing an xGEOID21 model next year**. Rather, the entire year will be spent in a collaborative research effort with our CGS colleagues in an attempt to drive all remaining disagreements between methods down to 1 cm (RMS) and 10 cm (max) between models, before blending into an xGEOID22 model in 2022.

GRAV-D Progress Last Quarter: **Steady at 0.0% to**

**81.6% Behind** Schedule!

Recently: Grounded



Schedule: 84.0%