

Australian GNSS Coordination Committee (AGCC)

www.agcc.gov.au

United Nations GNSS Action Team meeting
Vienna, December 2003

Australia's position

- Does not, will not, "own" its GNSS
- Client for GNSS signals
- Looks to its own national interest
- Recognises some sectors have international drivers (eg aviation, defence, maritime)
- Fast adopter and adapter of technology

Why the AGCC?

- 1999 study launched by DoTaRS identified
 - Widespread and growing use of GNSS in Australia
 - Multi-modal transport applications critical
 - Lack of coordination leading to sub-optimal outcomes, potential spectrum loss, paucity of reliable information
 - A body called for to be advisory to government

Key dates

- AGCC established by Minister for Transport and Regional Services, May 2000.
- Review of the first three years operation carried out in mid-2003

Committee Role

- Consider and develop mechanisms to coordinate all land, sea and air aspects of GNSS
- Promote the safe and effective utilisation and development of GNSS in Australia
- Coordinate national security issues, the application of augmentation systems and the national use of GNSS in other relevant applications

Membership

- Independent Chair
- DoTaRS
- ITS Australia
- Aviation
- Dept of Defence
- Defence Science and Technology
- Land Transport
- Academia
- Dept of Communications, IT and the Arts
- CSIRO
- Geoscience Australia
- Maritime
- Emergency services
- Private sector service providers
- Free-to-air service providers

Australia's GNSS Policy: *Positioning for the Future*

- Launched by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services 28 August 2002
- Vision is that Australia will be a world leader in the multimodal application of satellite navigation
- Policy is based on eight principles

1. National Coverage

- GNSS implementation in Australia will be approached at a national level with the objective of providing multimodal GNSS services with full national coverage.

National initiatives

- Defence Dept now has apparatus license for L1, L2, L5 GPS bands.
- Class licence amended to ensure ubiquitous reception in GPS bands
- Interference study conducted
- Initiation of Radiocommunications Act amendment - prohibition of GPS jamming devices

International initiatives

- Agreement on civil GPS use drafted, with US State Dept
- Developing MOU on Galileo cooperation with EC
- Conversations with other GNSS system developers
- Representation in other fora, eg APEC

2. Safety

- The application of GNSS technology to any activity should maintain or enhance existing levels of safety in that activity, particularly life-critical activities.

Initiatives

- Awareness raising
- Interference protection by amendments to radiocommunications legislation
- Web site information and links
www.agcc.gov.au

3. Efficiency, Economic and Social benefits

- The efficiency and safety of a broad range of existing industries will be increased and new industry opportunities will be created by exploiting the potential of GNSS based applications. This will result in substantial benefits to the Australian economy and the Australian public

Initiatives

- Awareness-raising and encouragement
- Refutation of incorrect media reports on GPS accuracy that could discourage application growth
- Verification of GPS signals for evidentiary purposes
- Privacy aspects – work in progress

4. Industry development

- Australia will have an innovative world class industry that is internationally competitive in the development, provision and use of applications that utilise GNSS technology.

Initiatives

- Activity overlaps that reported under some other strategies
- Advice on public vs private service provision

5. Flexibility of policy and strategy

- The application of GNSS technology will focus on user requirements. Innovation and new applications will be actively encouraged in order to derive benefits to the Australian economy and the Australian community.

Initiatives

- Monitoring developments to encourage system compatibility
- Monitoring and evaluating developments and applications in the area of high-precision GNSS

6. Standards

- National and preferably international standards will be developed and used to provide formal and practical assurance of the availability, integrity, continuity of service and accuracy levels of equipment, services and practices.

Initiatives

- Advice into Australian representation at international fora – eg WRC
- Monitoring prospective changes to licensing regime on UWB
- Australian Communications Authority has an “advisor” invitation to attend AGCC meetings

7. Environmental benefits

- The application of GNSS will achieve both intentional and incidental environmental benefits.

Initiatives

- Study on agriculture
- Support for new farming practices
- Cooperation with ITS Australia to promote benefits of applications such as vehicle navigation systems in reducing traffic congestion and emissions

8. National Security

- All GNSS activities must be consistent with or contribute to national security and national and international defence requirements.

Initiatives

- Close liaison with Australian Defence Dept
- Specific briefings of cleared personnel at classified level
- Recognition that national security is broader than Defence
- Recognition of GNSS applications as elements of critical infrastructure

The future?

- Review findings under consideration by Minister
- AGCC expected to continue, with ToFR revised to better reflect its advisory and consultative role
- Work to be more targeted at high value projects
- Possible additional members eg agriculture