

Preparing the Strategic Plan 2008-2012: Solicitation of Ideas on the Future Needs of Scientific and other Users

Dow, J.M.¹; Blewitt, G.²; Rizos, C.³

¹ESA/ESOC, GERMANY;

²University of Nevada at Reno, UNITED STATES;

³University of New South Wales, AUSTRALIA

The IGS Strategic Plan 2002-2007 will be reviewed and a new plan drafted at a dedicated retreat later this year. As one step in the preparation for this, this session provides an opportunity to solicit the user community for the future needs of scientific and other applications, with a discussion on how IGS might meet those needs. A position paper and a few invited contributions will introduce the session to put it into the context of the strategic planning process, to highlight examples of applications that will need IGS, and to present critical and strategic issues. We especially encourage abstracts from scientific investigators and other users who may not be directly or deeply involved with IGS operations, but who use IGS products or could potentially use future IGS products. We also encourage those more involved in IGS to suggest a strategy for meeting foreseeable needs at any appropriate level (scientific, technical, systems design, operational, political, etc.). Some questions for consideration include: What are the foreseeable needs of science applications, natural hazards, space missions, and other applications and users through 2012? How those can needs be met, and what does this imply for changes and required action within IGS? Are we sufficiently open to innovations, new products, and new participants? Are the current plan's strategic directions (LEO's, new GNSS, real time) still the key ones for the coming years? What changes are needed in the IGS in order to be able to play its due role in the Global Geodetic Observing System? How will IGS operations be funded in future? Is there a role for a commercial office in the IGS? (Or should this idea be definitively dropped?) What elements of the Strategic Plan remain valid for the coming years? What can be deleted? What is missing? What needs to be improved? Do we need to change the way we operate and manage our activities (identifying and responding to user requirements; GB, EC, CB, technical elements; reviews, workshops, outreach, elections, appointments, etc.)?