

# The IGS: *an IAG service that delivers*

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International  
Association of  
Geodesy

A Constituent Association of the IUGG



... advancing geodesy ...



# IAG Services

Geometry

IERS: International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service  
(*ILS in 1899, BIH in 1912, IPMS in 1962, IERS in 1987*)

IGS: International GNSS Service (1994)

IVS: International VLBI Service (1999)

ILRS: International Laser Ranging Service (1998)

IDS: International DORIS Service (2003)

IGFS: International Gravity Field Service (2004)

Gravimetry

BGI: Bureau Gravimetrique International (1951)

IGeS: International Geoid Service (1992)

ICET: International Centre for Earth Tides (1956)

ICGEM: International Centre for Global Earth Models (2003)

IDEMS: International Digital Elevation Models Service (1999)

Std Ocean

PSMSL: Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (1933)

IAS: International Altimetry Service (2008)

BIPM: Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (*Time 1875*)

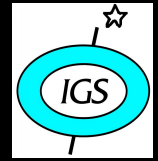
IBS: IAG Bibliographic Service (1889)



# Global Geodetic Observing System

- **GGOS** uses the technologies, methodologies and infrastructures of *Modern Geodesy* to study Earth with *unprecedented* spatial and temporal resolution and timeliness.
- Addresses challenges of Earth system science
- Requires coordinated global infrastructure
- Dependent on space technology, ground infrastructure and international cooperation
- Delivering *services*, to build a synoptic geodetic system

**GNSS (technology) and IGS (service) are critical to delivering on the GGOS vision**



**But the IGS infrastructure & its products do much *more*...**

*IGS underpins society's requirements for a high quality, accessible geospatial framework, & a high accuracy GNSS-PNT capability...*

This *versatility* gives the IGS a “special role”, even beyond its IAG responsibilities, but nevertheless poses significant challenges.

# IGS' s Key Strategies



- Deliver **world-standard quality** GNSS data and products to all users globally with **leading-edge expertise and resources**.
- Develop, integrate, and participate with **new and changing GNSS systems**, and **understand user needs** to **continuously improve** the IGS to provide value to a **broad range of users**.
- Continuously **improve** the effectiveness of the IGS **governance and management** to support **growth of the service**.

<http://igs.cb.jpl.nasa.gov/overview/pubs.html>



## *What the IGS pioneered... (& why the IAG is so proud of it)*



**Products...** *highly professional, operational service with performance far better than any other GPS service provider... trail-blazer for other IAG services.*

**Democratisation...** *of geodetic technologies & knowhow... involving organisations & agencies from many countries.*

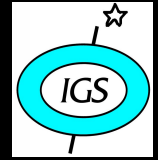
**Dense global coverage...** *engaging with station operators around the world, promoting IAG ideals.*

**Adaptability...** *ability to extend & maintain tracking network... experiment & develop new products... with inbuilt “self-improvement” mechanism.*

**Engagement...** *scientific & professional organisations... respected “brand” with unrivalled GNSS expertise... encouraging an open & inclusive “culture” across the geodetic community.*



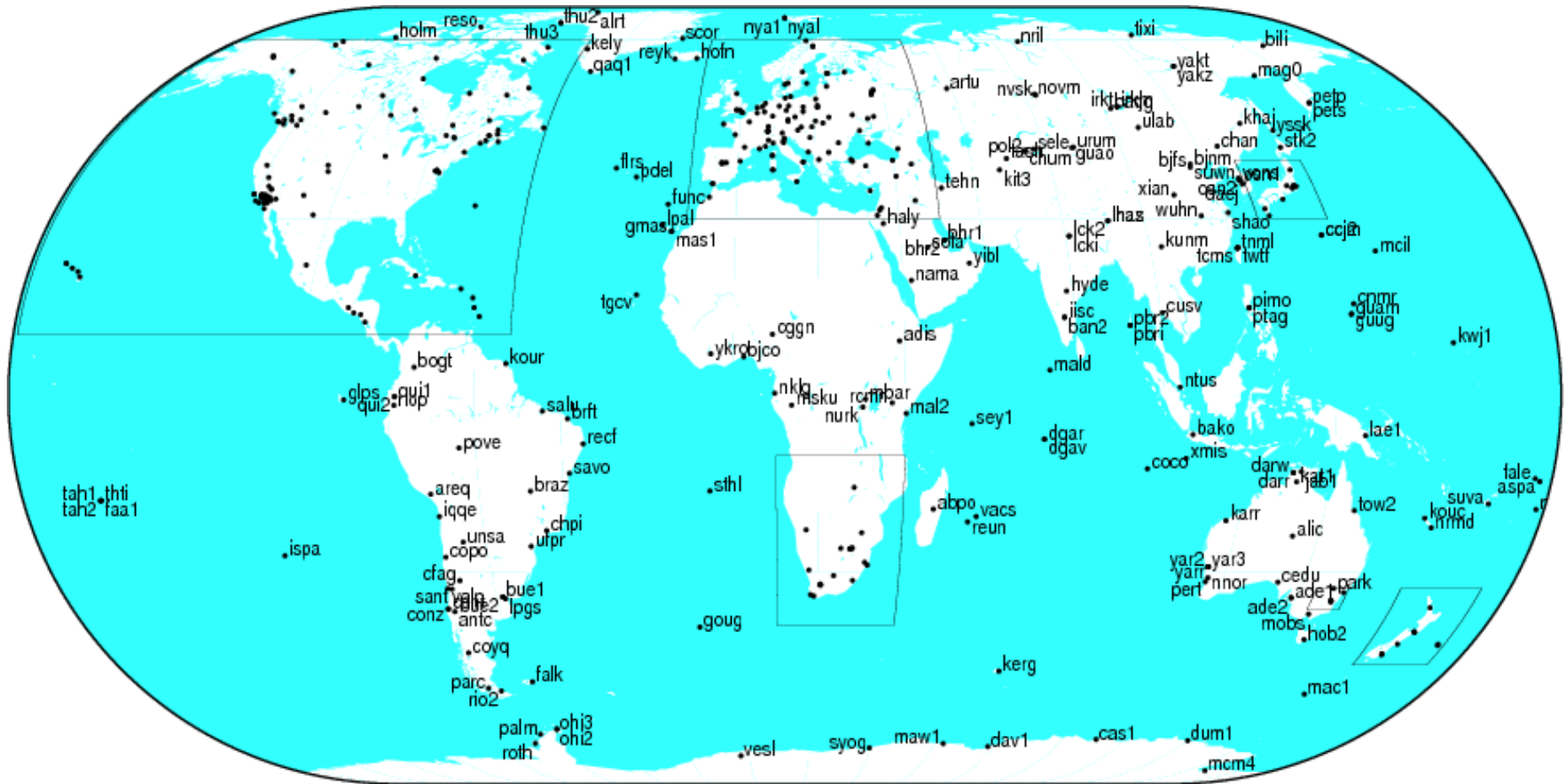
# 1. IGS & tracking networks...



- Network densification
- Project-specific support
- Application of IGS products
- Access to ITRF
- Inculcate IGS “culture” of open data policies
- “Nursery” for new IGS participants
- Cooperate with IAG Comm1
- IGS link to operational geodesy & precise positioning apps
- Outreach & technology transfer
- Encourage adoption of IGS standards, models...
- Align with national geodetic initiatives
- Engagement with sister professional & scientific associations
- Support less developed countries
- Investment from which new IGS products & roles evolve

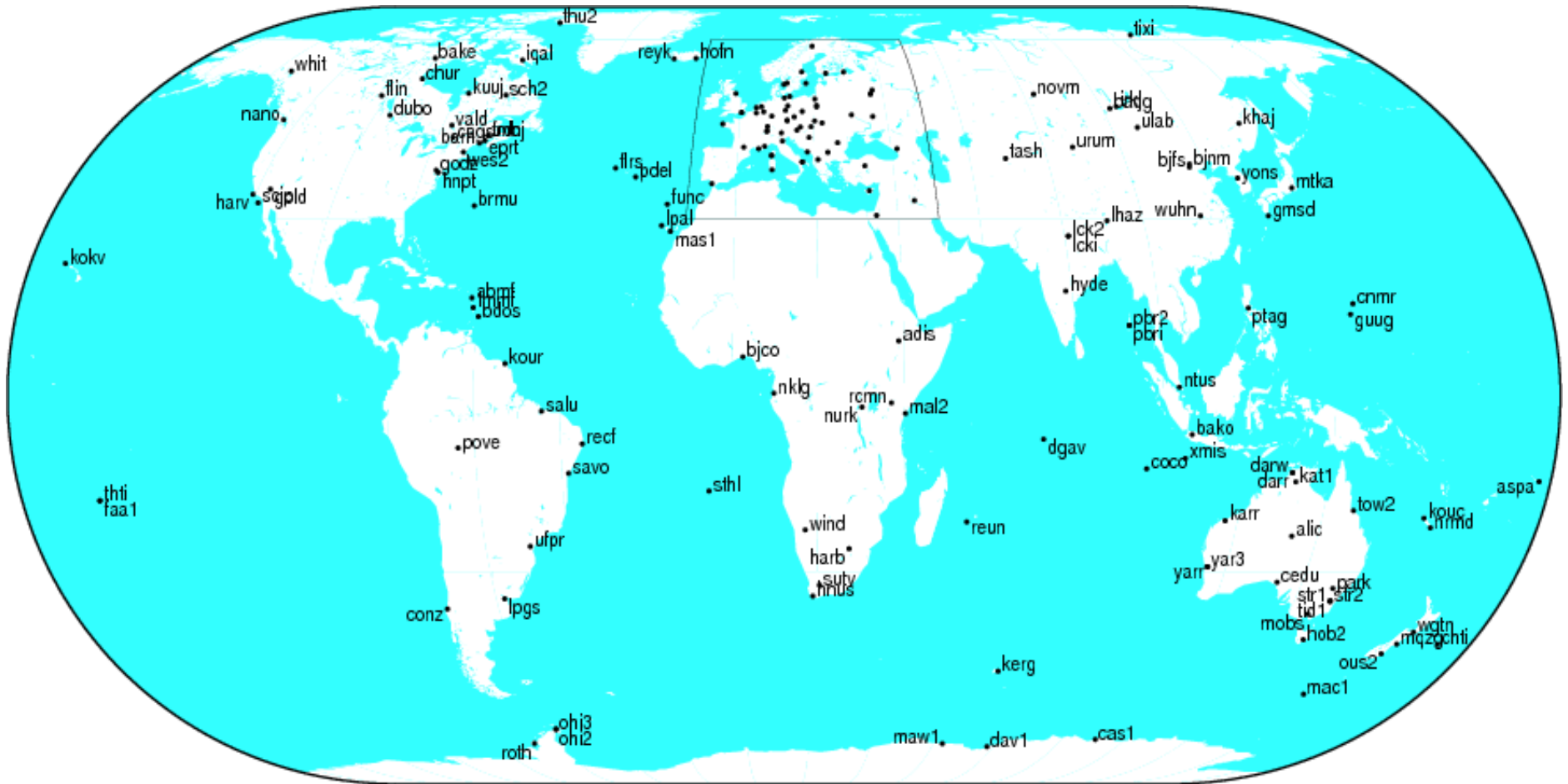
WHY?

# IGS Tracking Network





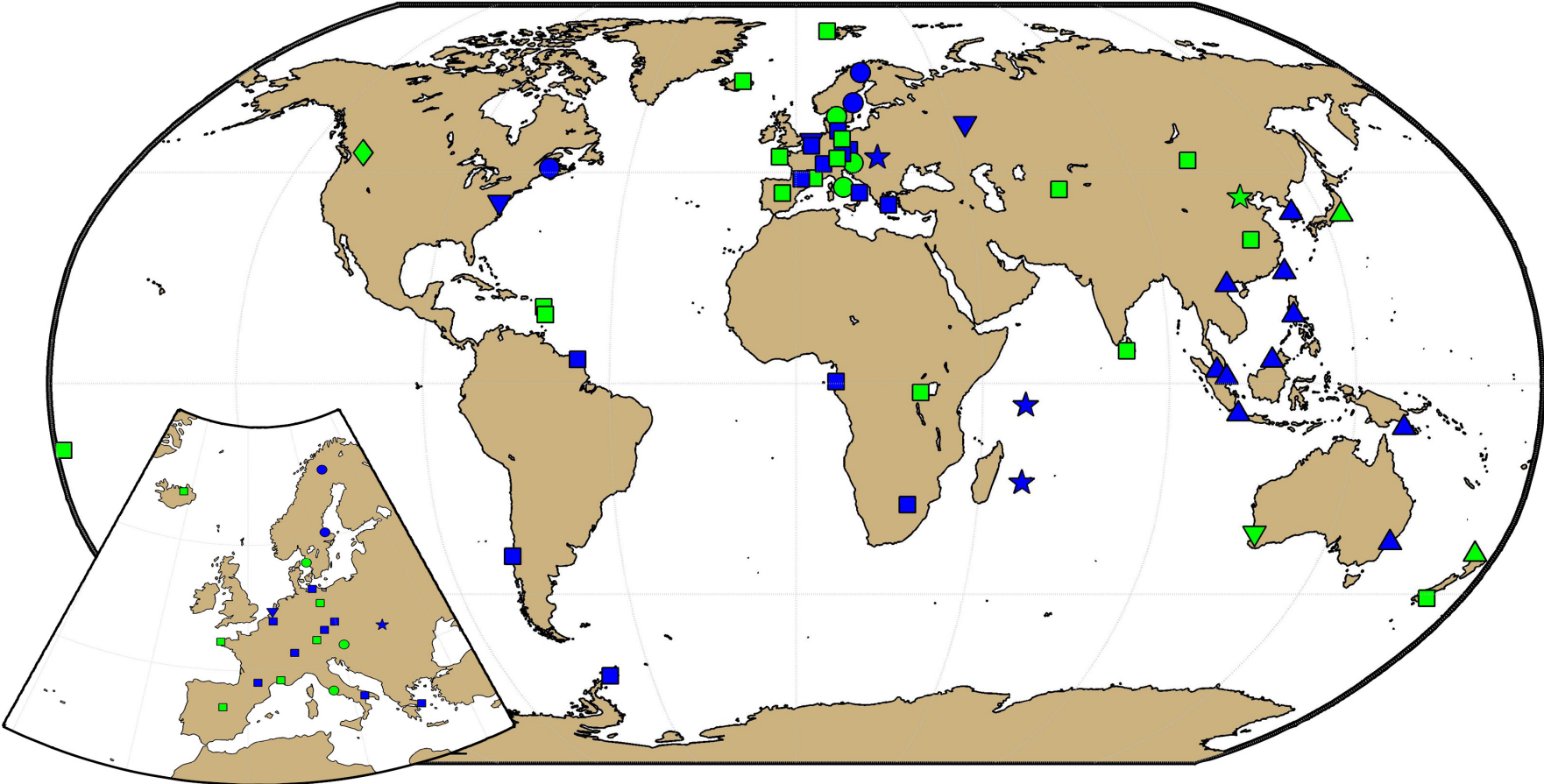
# IGS GPS+GLONASS Network



# IGS Real-time Tracking Network



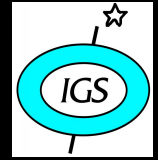
# IGS M-GEX Network



- ★ GPS/GLONASS
- ◆ GPS/GLONASS + QZSS
- GPS/GLONASS + GIOVE/Galileo
- GPS/GLONASS + GIOVE/Galileo + Compass/Beidou
- ▼ GPS/GLONASS + GIOVE/Galileo + Compass/Beidou + QZSS
- ▲ GPS/GLONASS + GIOVE/Galileo + QZSS
- ▲ + SBAS



## 2. IGS & multi-GNSS...



- New GNSS experimentation
- Inculcate IGS “culture” of open data policies, etc.
- “Nursery” for new IGS ACs
- Doesn’t impact on production of core products
- Ensures IGS is recognised as “GNSS experts”
- Collaborate with other IAG Components
- Extend IGS expertise
- Develop new products
- Encourage adoption of IGS standards, models...
- Engagement with UN-ICG
- Encourage IGS “best practice”
- Encourage adoption of ITRF
- Assessment of “value” of new GNSSs for GGOS & other IGS products

WHY?

# Multi-Constellation GNSS



## Global Constellations:

GPS (32)

GLONASS (30)

Galileo (30)

BeiDou (35)

## SBAS:

WAAS (3)

MSAS (2)

EGNOS (3)

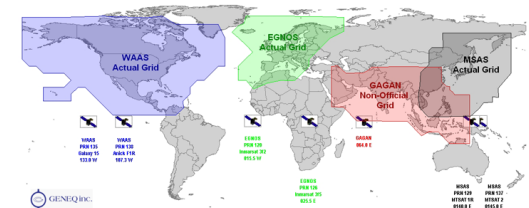
GAGAN (2)

SDCM (3)

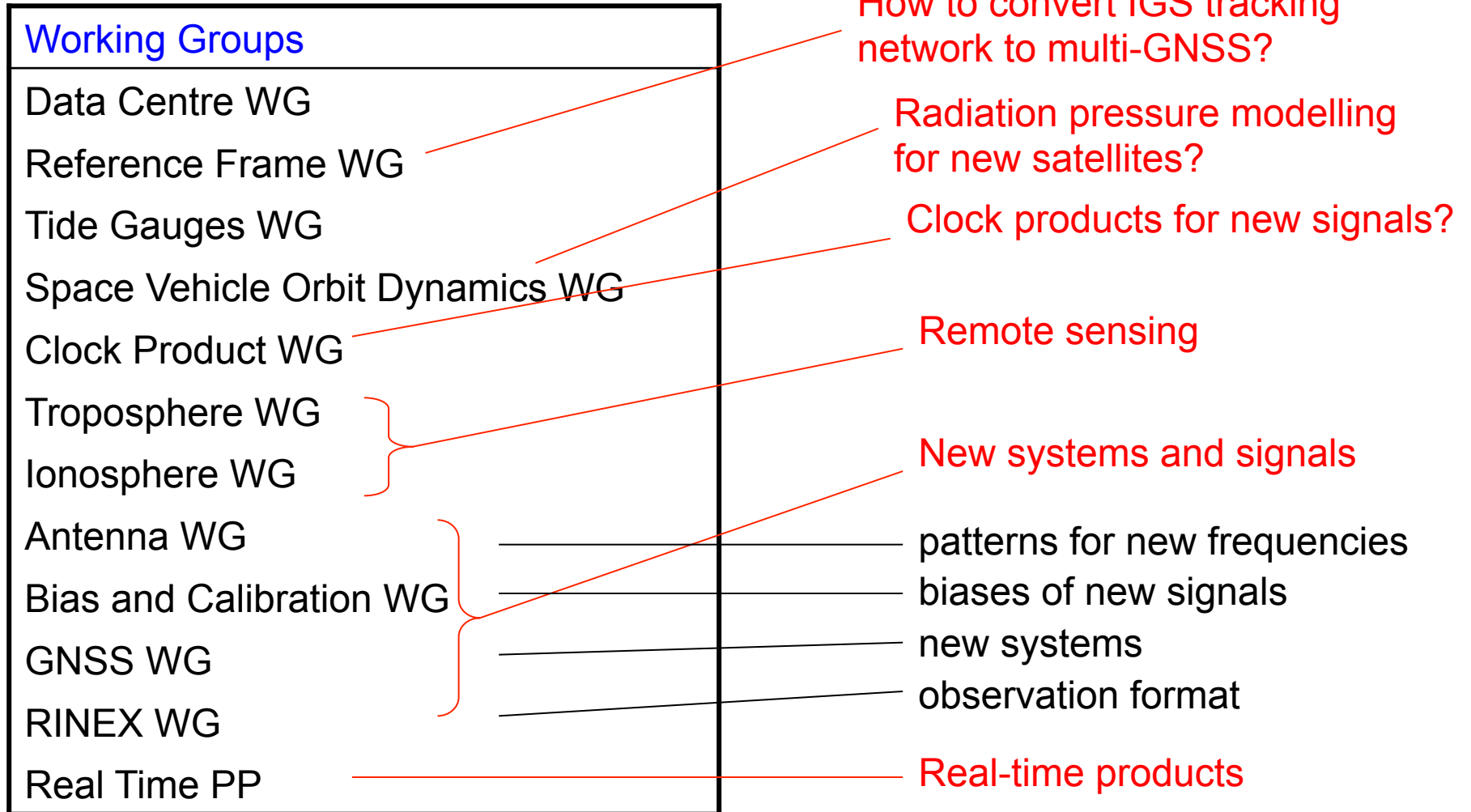
## Regional Constellations:

QZSS (4-7)

IRNSS (7)

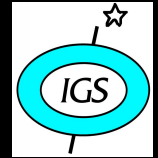


# IGS Working Groups & M-GNSS





### 3. IGS & real-time products...



- New geoscience capability
- Inculcate IGS “culture” of open data policies, etc.
- Encourage new IGS ACs & participants
- Engagement with new user communities
- Ensures IGS continues to be recognised as the “GNSS experts”
- Develop new products
- Extend significantly the IGS’s expertise
- Encourage adoption of new IGS standards, models...
- Increased visibility
- Extend IGS roles
- Ambitious performance targets
- Leads the IAG community into new field of “real-time geodesy”

WHY?



## *The IGS in the international context... (& why the IAG is so proud of it)*



- As an IAG service, the *performance, visibility and evolution* of the IGS is of particular interest to the IAG.
- The IGS is one of the best known of the IAG services.
- The IGS and the ITRF are viewed (by many) as inextricably linked.
- IGS products support not only GGOS and geoscience, but also many other societal precise positioning and datum modernisation needs.
- The IGS is “centre-stage” as far as new GNSS developments are concerned, *such a multi-GNSS deployment and testing, global GNSS monitoring, expansion of CORS services, the RTS, modern data services, and in making modern geodesy far more “accessible”*.





## *The IGS in the international context... (& why the IAG is so proud of it)*



- This workshop will provide update on new GNSS developments, new products to support IGS mission, and new IGS services.
- Outreach, beyond the workshop participants, is crucial... *What do we want to say to others about where the IGS “is” and where it is “going”?* Explaining IGS evolution is important.
- Many “players” would welcome an expanded (more visible?) role for the IGS.
- Multi-GNSS offers both challenges and opportunities.
- Being timid is not part of the culture of the IGS.
- However, quality-of-service (current or future) must not be compromised.



## *The IGS in the international context... (& why the IAG is so proud of it)*



- The IGS must be seen to pay more than “lip service” to the incorporation of new systems and signals into routine operations... *but groups can be trail-blazers... track, archive, or analyse new signals.*
- However, the complete portfolio of IGS products must also be improved... *tap into the IGS “culture”.*
- The launch of the IGS-RTS is a crucial, even revolutionary, development, and has *international ramifications.*
- The global GNSS tracking network is the most *international* part of the IGS... *it is both the IGS’s strength and a component that requires special attention.*



## *The IAG encourages the IGS to:*

- *Maintain & improve its current capabilities & products.*
- *Be creative & remain open to experimentation.*
- *Engage with the other IAG components.*
- *Play its critical role within GGOS.*
- *Support global & regional initiatives that develop new GNSS capability for geodesy (& other users).*
- *Continue to play a unique & valued role in international forums.*
- *Continue its positive role as the most “visible” of the IAG Services.*



**150th  
Anniversary**

**1862-2012**