

To help NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) improve the National and Cooperative CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Station) program, we invite you to respond to any or all of the following questions by 15 September 2003.

Your comments may be emailed to cors@ngs.noaa.gov

or mailed to Don Haw
NOAA / National Geodetic Survey
1315 East-West Highway / Room 8855
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Alternatively, you may hand a copy of your comments to a NGS representative at the CORS Users Forum on 9 September 2003 in Portland, Oregon.

During part of this Forum, participants will have the opportunity to join one of several small discussion groups in which they will discuss these questions and other CORS-related topics.

1. Name/Organization (optional): _____

2. If you currently use CORS data or you expect to use CORS data in the future, please describe your applications with a few words or sentences.

3. What level of accuracy is needed for your applications? What does this level of accuracy enable you to do?

4. What type of station distribution is needed for your applications in terms of coverage area and/or station spacing? What does this station distribution enable you to do?

5. How frequently should CORS data be sampled for your applications? (Indicate all applicable choices)

- Every 30 seconds
- Every 15 seconds
- Every 10 seconds
- Every 5 seconds
- Every 1 second
- Other (specify) _____

If you need CORS data sampled at a rate faster than every 30 seconds, then how long should NGS store these data online for easy retrieval assuming that corresponding data--that has been decimated to a 30-second sampling rate--will be stored online for several years.

- 1 month
- 2 months
- 6 months
- 1 year
- 2 years
- Other (specify) _____

6. Would you be willing to use interpolated CORS data, if these data are sampled at a slower rate than what is needed for your applications?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what would be the slowest rate (for the pre-interpolated data) that you would be willing to accept? If no, then briefly explain your rationale.

7. How soon after the observation of CORS data do you need these data for your applications? (Indicate all applicable choices)

- Near real time
- Within seconds
- Within minutes
- Within hours
- Within days
- Within weeks
- Within months
- Other (specify) _____

8. Briefly describe your special requirements for the quality of CORS data.

9. Briefly describe your special requirements for the environmental setting of a CORS site.

10. Briefly describe your special requirements for the functional capabilities of an individual CORS site (in terms of hardware, firmware, auxiliary equipment, communications, etc.).

11. Briefly describe your special requirements for the functional capabilities of the CORS data center located at NGS headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

12. Briefly describe your special requirements for CORS metadata (equipment type, on-site contact, geological setting, etc.) and/or for auxiliary information (orbits, weather, geoid model, crustal motion models, etc.).

13. Briefly describe your special requirements for CORS data accessibility (in terms of data formats, the directory structure for online storage, file naming conventions, data retrieval utilities, data compression utilities, etc.).

14. Briefly describe your special requirements for CORS-related services (help desk, training, documentation, etc.).

15. Briefly describe any suggestions for improving the CORS program.

16. Has CORS provided you with the ability to accomplish tasks that were previously unattainable or impractical? Are you aware of any non-standard or creative uses for CORS data? How may we find out more about these uses?

17. NGS now stores GPS data from the CORS network as RINEX files that have been compressed using the “gzip” utility. In the near future, NGS is planning to also store GPS data as RINEX files that have been compressed using the “Hatanaka algorithm” followed by the “UNIX-compress” utility. Once all existing GPS data from the CORS network are available in the “Hatanaka/UNIX” format, NGS would support both formats for about six months. After this transition period, NGS would delete its GPS RINEX files that are in the “gzip” format. This transition would greatly reduce the disk space needed by NGS to store CORS data. Also, the “Hatanaka/UNIX” format is used by several other organizations that distribute GPS data. Please provide concerns about this possible transition.