

Argos bulletin

NOAA-L... operational

New Customer Service Department at CLS Toulouse

As of February 1, 2000, a new customer support department was created as part of the Operations Division at CLS.

The Customer support team monitors all operational programs, facilities and systems as well as product compliance.

The team is lead by Philippe Gros as head of the department and includes: Marianne Dondin, Colette Dufresne (currently on maternity leave) and Fabienne Vigier in the User's Office. Daniel Ayter, Fernand Cid and Pascal Chicot for Value-added Services working in conjunction with operating technicians in the Information Processing Division to process data around the clock. In facilities and product monitoring, Carole Jordana, Lydia Martins, Judy Wallace and Philippe Combes are responsible for expeditions, product support, stock management, and after sales services.

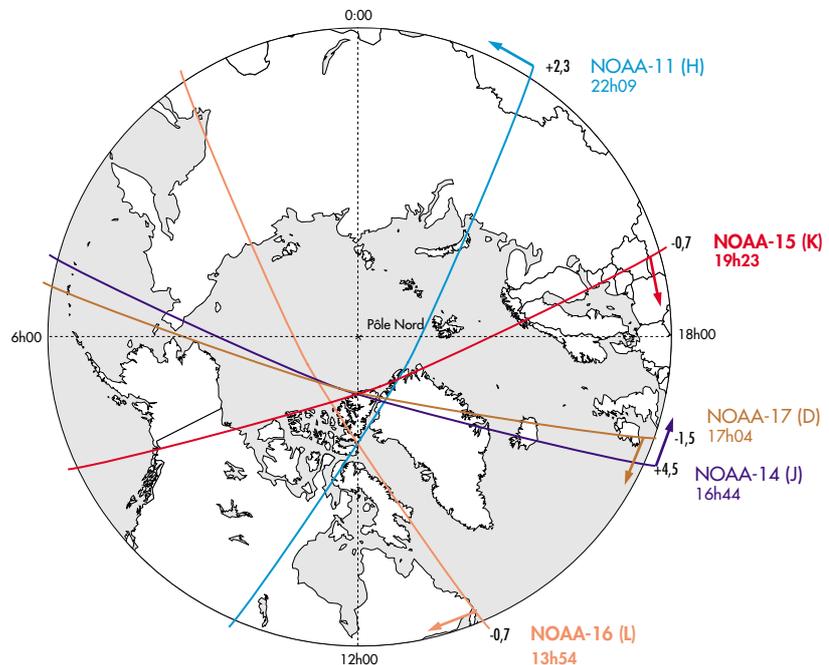
As of Oct. 17, 2000, the satellite NOAA-16 (NL), launched a month earlier, was integrated into the Argos multi-satellite service while waiting to be officially declared operational by the NOAA. Until now, the two standard service satellites were NOAA-15 (NK) and NOAA-14 (NJ).

After four months of validation, NOAA has now declared NOAA-16 operational. As with each operation similar to this, we are integrating NOAA-16 into the basic service to re-

place NOAA-14 (NJ), and NOAA-14 will now become part of the multi-satellite service.

This operation was successful on February 6, 2001 at 12:00 UT without any interruption in service.

We would like to mention once again that the satellites NOAA-16 and NOAA-15 each have an Argos second generation instrument on-board. The second generation instrument is enhanced from previous versions in terms of capacity and frequency spreading.



Orbital planes as of February, 2001

Times are local equator crossing times in mean solar time. Orbit drifts are in minutes per month.

The configuration of the satellites is now the following:

- Argos basic service: NOAA-16 (NL), NOAA-15 (NK)
- Argos multi-satellite service: NOAA-14 (NJ), NOAA-12 (ND), NOAA-11 (NH)

Argos User's Manual on cd-rom

The latest Argos User's Manual is available on Cd-Rom in both French and English. Ask for a copy if you haven't already received one. The manual is also available on-line at:

<http://www.cls.fr/manuel/>
and is updated regularly.

We are currently working on a new version which will be published when the new user interface is operational. Now is the time to send us any comments to improve or enhance the new version.



Send your comments to:

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International User's Conference hosted by Service Argos Inc.

April 23-25, 2001 Annapolis, Maryland, USA

Conference objective

To stimulate technical discussion concerning the capabilities, performance and applications of the Argos satellite and ground processing systems

Argos staff will review the present and future capabilities of the Argos system with an emphasis on system performance and the use of that information for making effective technical discussions.

Participation is strongly encouraged from Argos system users outside the U.S.

Call for Papers

Abstracts are being accepted for papers describing the use of the Argos System in any major science field (oceanography, biology, meteorology, etc.) as well as environmental protection applications including fishing vessel monitorin, hazardous material transport and monitoring.

The conference will be followed by a workshop on the afternoon of April 25th on "**Argos downlink, the practical implementation**". The workshop is open to all users and manufacturers.

Call for exhibits

Exhibit space is FREE! This is an opportunity to display your new equipment, products, and/or services.

Registration information

All conference Attendees (including Speakers and Exhibitors) are required to register. The Registration fee of US \$45.00 entitles Attendees admissions to all Technical Sessions and the Exhibits, a copy of the Conference Proceedings, and admission to the world famous Argos reception.

Accommodations

The Conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel Annapolis, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401. A block of rooms has been set aside for conference attendees. To make reservations worldwide: www.radisson.com or call 1-800-333-3333 and tell them you will participate in the Argos conference.

For more information

Please contact Ann Lipscomb or Lisa Morakis at:

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