

Argos *bulletin*

August 2001

Argos Downlink is Rapidly Approaching

As we get closer to the scheduled February 2002 launch of the Adeos-2 satellite, which will carry the first Argos downlink (Argos two-way), it is important that we keep you informed about what you can soon expect. Some of you have learned of this new capability by participating to the Downlink Workshop portion of the April, 2001 Argos International Users Conference and others by reading technical papers and articles about it. For those who might not have heard about the downlink yet or maybe have lost track of its status, here are a few details about what to expect.

The Argos downlink or Argos two-way is a major step forward for the Argos system. Argos has been a one-way system for over twenty years. One-way, means that the satellites collect data messages from users' transmitters (platforms) without protocols, synchronization or dialog with the transmitter. Each transmitter repeats short messages, lasting less than a second, to make sure that at least one satellite picks them up. The Argos downlink capability will allow users for the first time to send short commands back to their platforms and thus communicate with them once they are deployed. The Argos downlink will also broadcast to your platforms useful Argos-defined information on satellite configurations such as ephemeris or satellite characteristics. In addition, the downlink can be used to acknowledge good reception by the satellites of messages from your platform by implementing the interactive data collection mode.

What can you do with the Argos downlink

- Send messages to your platforms, for example to modify sampling strategy, float diving time and depth, etc.
- Increase platform lifetime by transmitting only when a satellite is in view,
- Send more data with the interactive data collection mode.

How to begin interacting with your platforms

Platform Messaging Transceiver (PMT) development kits are available from CLS and SAI to help manufacturers develop the downlink capabilities. Some manufacturers are already starting the developments. Contact your

manufacturer(s) to investigate their development status and to inform them of the dedicated downlink functions you would like to have implemented on your platforms.

Once the satellite is launched, tests with manufacturers will begin. When the manufacturers have successfully completed their development and testing, and the technical requirements are satisfied, PMT equipped platforms will be available for users. When you receive your new platform(s), you will need to declare them into the Argos system by contacting your useroffice. The useroffice will declare your platforms and enter their downlink messaging characteristics. You'll soon be able to do these operations yourself, should you wish, by logging on our data web site.

Once they are declared into the system, you can begin communicating with your platform(s) from your desktop through the Argos web interface. ♦

For more detailed information on the downlink you may refer to the frequently asked questions from Argos newsletter #54. A copy of this newsletter is available on-line at: (http://www.cls.fr/html/argos/general/newsletter_tout_en.html) or for a paper copy contact Jan Chevrier jan.chevrier@cls.fr in communications.

A brochure will be available in early 2002 with information as well as an addition to the user manual with all the details about where to begin. We will keep you posted in upcoming bulletins when these documents become available.





Argos Brochure

A new Argos Brochure, published this year in French, English and Spanish is now available. This new design was created as part of a new line of brochures and Argos display.

Come visit us in an upcoming conference to see the new brochures and display or ask us for a copy.

NASDA successfully launched H-IIA

The National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) announced that it successfully launched the H-IIA Launch Vehicle at 4:00 p.m. on August 29, 2001, Japan Standard Time. The vehicle was launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan. The success

of this launch is a key part of the planned launch of the Adeos-2 satellite which will carry Argos Next. Adeos-2 is a Japanese satellite that will also be launched by NASDA. The success of the H-IIA launch vehicle is a very positive step toward the scheduled February launch date.

Upcoming Shows and Conferences

Come visit us at one of the upcoming shows.

4 th Eurasian Conf. on raptors	Seville, Spain	September 25-29, 2001
Wildlife Society Meeting	Reno, NV, USA	September 25 - 29, 2001
IAF 2001	Toulouse, France	October 1-5, 2001
Adventure Film Festival	Dijon, France	October 25-27, 2001
MTS/Oceans 2001	Honolulu, HI, USA	November 5 - 8, 2001
NavSat	Nice, France	November 13-15, 2001
Intermodal 2001	Hamburg, Germany	November 13-15, 2001
Sea Tech Week	Brest, France	End of November 2001
Marine Mammal Conference	Vancouver, BC, Canada	Nov. 28 - Dec. 3, 2001

Meetings

DBCP	Perth, Australia	October 22-27, 2001
JTA	Perth, Australia	October 29-31, 2001

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