

Topcon GPS+ Users Now Have Access to 41 Satellites

Users of Topcon Positioning Systems GPS+ technology can now access three additional GLONASS satellites following the launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, on 25th December 2005.

Topcon GPS+ is a dual frequency satellite-based precision positioning system that allows its users the option to access both the GPS and GLONASS satellite constellations, virtually eliminating jobsite downtime due to weak or obstructed satellite reception.

The launch, which increased the number of GLONASS satellites to 17 (with GPS, the total satellites available to Topcon users is 41), is the first of a series of satellite placements the Russian Federal Space Agency has scheduled in the next two years to bring the GLONASS system to full deployment.

Two of the satellites are the new M-series, which have a longer orbit-life " seven to eight years -- compared to about three years for older models.

Future launches will include GLONASS satellites designed to remain in orbit for up to 10 years.

Following the launch, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he wanted the GLONASS system, which will have 24 operational satellites, to be fully deployed within the next two years.

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