

Subject: E-GVAP and the access to NOAA ground based GNSS data
From: Henrik Vedel <hev@dmil.dk>
Date: 2016-09-05 12:27
To: Eric Petermann <eric.petermann@eumetnet.eu>
CC: "dave.offiler@metoffice.gov.uk" <dave.offiler@metoffice.gov.uk>, "Truscott, Bruce" <bruce.truscott@metoffice.gov.uk>

Dear Eric,

Over the summer holiday period bad news has arrived regarding confirmation of stopping access to the NOAA ground-based GNSS zenith total delay (ZTD) and integrated water vapour (IWV) data.

Dave Offiler, UK Met Office, and part of the E-GVAP team, has been in contact with Bill Callahan, Earth Networks, the private company to which NOAA has outsourced the processing of the GPS data previously processed by NOAA itself. It is now clear that the outsourcing of the processing to Earth Networks is under a 5 year contract, delivering data for internal NOAA and NWS use only, so no longer being made available to non-US users. Bill Callahan refers to this link regarding the transition:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/scn16-19gps_met.htm

The text at the link is in the attached file, noaa-stop-gps.pdf

The contact person mentioned in the NOAA link, Jennifer Guillot, is exactly the person I have been emailing, back in May, to obtain further information about the situation. But she has never answered. We suggest you might contact her and some of your high up contacts at NOAA to express EUMETNET concern and learn what their thoughts are about how to solve this.

Depending on the outcome, we might consider to have EUMETNET members also contact NOAA individually on a high level. From the discussion at the Obs SET meeting at ECMWF in May, it is clear that many are prepared to initiate that.

We understand that there will be a STAC/PFAC meeting in early October, at which the Met Office are willing to formally table the issue for discussion and possible follow-up action by EUMETNET, reminding NOAA of obligations under the principles of WMO Resolution 40 and the newer WIGOS OND Principle no.9. (It is Bruce Truscott who offered to do this, which is why he is cc on this mail.)

To Dave Offiler, Bill Callahan offered to also deliver the "NOAA" ZTDs to UK Met Office, at a cost. He further offered to continue the free distribution for a short while in an unspecified transition period.

It is certainly not the ideal way to go, to have individual European met offices negotiating with Earth Networks, and starting to pay for something which was previously free, and which we have provided free of charge to NOAA for European GNSS sites for more than 10 years. Certainly the NMSs we have contacted (including Meteo-France and Environment Canada) agree with us that this would set a dangerous precedent which should be avoided as a matter of principle.

Don't hesitate to contact us, should you need further information.

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Kind regards, thanks for you help
Henrik and Dave

PS It should be noted there are other sources of US GNSS delay data. But currently E-GVAP is not allowed to download and distribute them, only individual met institutes. There are issues of format conversion etc., which individual EUMETNET members ideally should not need to deal with. There is no reason to mention these alternative data in any contact with NOAA at this stage. /H&D

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—Attachments:—

noaa-stop-gps.pdf

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