

CGMS Permanent Action 06

NOAA Direct Readout Ground Station Location and User Database Update for 2006

The NOAA Satellite and Information Service is pleased to provide the accompanying Excel spreadsheet that contains data collected by NOAA over the past several years. The data in this report was collected from a single SQL 2000 database in September 2005 that was populated from three basic sources, each with varying levels of confidence in accuracy. The initial source for all data types in the database involved collecting and logging data from users through personal contact at meetings, conferences and email and phone communications. The second collection source was compiled and verified by NOAA to identify GOES ground stations through a registration process to obtain free GOES GVAR software and updates. The third source for all data types is from a new NOAA Satellite Ground Station Customer Questionnaire that is accessible through the World Wide Web at:

http://directreadoutsurvey.noaa.gov/user/survey_form_english.jsp and is also available in Spanish, French and Portuguese.

Users simply fill out a brief survey containing drop down menus and check boxes that compile the information into an internal database. NOAA uses this information to generate generic user reports that assist in planning and evaluating changes to our satellite systems and services and in providing limited information to the global meteorological community through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Future plans also include using contact information in this database to notify users of important satellite operations and service changes.

Filling out the questionnaire is voluntary and as such relies fully upon the respondent to provide complete and accurate information. As a result, there is potential for some limited duplication due to respondents registering multiple times with different information or as artifacts from the process of consolidating the three sources. NOAA is currently working through the database to rectify these duplications and verify the information but the process has just started and is not complete as of this submission. Additionally, new users register each day while others retire so the data is constantly changing. As such, the accompanying spreadsheet will likely have some duplication, omissions, and/or errors but it is the best database of NOAA Direct Readout ground station locations to date.

Data in the report are retrieved from the consolidated Direct Readout user database developed and maintained by the NOAA Satellite and Information Service. The data fields are described in the Table 1.

Table 1: Description of the data fields.

Data field	Field description
Satellite	Name of NOAA satellite providing the service.
Service	Type of service used by the user.
User Type	User affiliation (government, amateur, etc.) is in shortened form. The full list of User Types is provided in attachment.
Latitude	Latitude for user's antenna in <i>decimal</i> degrees. Positive numbers designate North latitude; negative numbers are for South latitude.
Longitude	Longitude for user's antenna in <i>decimal</i> degrees. Negative numbers designate West longitude; positive numbers designate East longitude.
Country/State/City	User location. Country names are given in abbreviated form. The list of abbreviations is provided in the spreadsheet. State/City names are listed as provided by the user.