

On the use of the combined GLONASS/GPS Constellation for geodynamical studies in Russia.

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GLONASS is a key element of the Russian Positioning, Time and Navigation service. Combination of the GPS and GLONASS can benefit users already now, especially in the urban areas. The GLONASS state program foresees to come to 18 satellites in constellation by 2008, and full operation capability (24 satellites) will be reached by 2020-2011. The second generation of the satellites GLONASS –M have been launched with the L2 civil signal, extended lifetime and improved clock stability. GLONASS-K satellites are expected by 2010 with the L3 civil signal and SAR function. An extension of the ground control and monitoring network up to 9-12 stations are planning and cooperation with IGS is foreseen. The combined GPS/GLONASS system is a main technology for development of the fundamental geodetic network and for crust movement studies along the North Eurasian tectonic plate.