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eLoran signal to support NASPI timing requirements

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URSANAV INC. & HARRIS CORPORATION



Agenda



- A Need for Precise Timing for Surveillance Systems
- eLoran for Precise Timing In Synchrophasor Applications





A NEED FOR PRECISE TIMING FOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS



U.S. ADS-B System



 Harris operates and maintains the Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) system, which provides aircraft position data to the FAA for Air Traffic Control (ATC)



- The ADS-B system is comprised of a nationwide terrestrial network of 650+ radio sites that receive transmissions from aircraft with their GPS-reported position information
 - This ADS-B sensor distribution is analogous to a large synchrophasor network





 The ADS-B Ground System validates the GPS-reported positions broadcast by the aircraft with data from FAA radars to ensure the aircraft are where they claim to be





- All ADS-B radio sites are equipped with GPS receivers so that they can accurately timestamp the reception of transmissions from aircraft
- In the absence of radar, validation of aircraft position can be achieved via Time Difference Of Arrival (TDOA) within some acceptable tolerance







 A sufficiently dense network of radio sites allows for independent determination of the aircraft position (called Wide Area Multilateration or WAM), but relative timing among all radios must be *very* precise (± 30 ns)



UrsaNav Finding The Ideal Alternative to GPS Timing



- ADS-B radio sites currently use GPS for timing, but GPS can be vulnerable to RF interference (both intentional and unintentional)
 - A shared problem for ADS-B and synchrophasors
- High-precision atomic clocks can maintain timing for limited periods of timing in the event of GPS failures, but these devices are very expensive
- As an alternative to expensive atomic clocks, Harris began investigating the use of alternative timing capabilities
- An ideal timing solution would be
 - Accurate (synchronized to UTC)
 - Precise (stable to within ±30 ns)
 - Cost effective (much cheaper than atomic clocks)
 - Robust to failures of GPS
- Our research determined that eLoran was the only mature technology able to satisfy these criteria
- The establishment of a national eLoran timing service will provide a robust complement to GPS timing for surveillance systems and potentially for synchrophasors





ELORAN FOR PRECISE TIMING IN SYNCHROPHASOR APPLICATIONS





GPS / GNSS Vulnerabilities

- Antenna needs clear view of the sky
- Performance Degradation
 - Natural
 - Human
- Spectrum Competition
- Radio Frequency Interference
- ✓ System Anomalies & Failures
- Jamming
- Spoofing & Counterfeit Signals
- Proliferation of Satellite Systems
- Satellite Launch Problems
- Ground Segment Problems

Of the 16 Critical Infrastructure / Key Resource sectors in the U.S., 15 use GPS for **timing**.

GPS **timing** is deemed **essential** for 11 of the sectors.

Source: U.S. DHS



The Need For A Resilient Timing and UTC Service in Synchrophasor Applications



January 26, 2016 2:49 to 8:10 AM 13.7 microseconds timing error. Contaminated an additional 15 satellites.



GPS SVN 23 Timing Anomaly Video: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjnK8GmSvnc</u>





- Time spoofing of Synchrophasors has been demonstrated in:
- Evaluation of the Vulnerability of Phasor Measurement Units to GPS Spoofing Attacks, Daniel P. Shepard and Todd E. Humphreys The University of Texas at Austin Aaron A. Fansler Northrop Grumman Information Systems
- Smart Grid Use of GPS Time: Protecting Synchrophasor Timestamps, Kevin M. Skey and Dr. Michael L. Cohen *The Mitre Corporation*
- Timing vulnerabilities are even more pressing as grid control becomes more automated





eLoran has been demonstrated to be a good alternative source of time in PMU applications



Proof of Concept conducted in conjunction with University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Distance from eLoran Transmitter was approximately 320 miles





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- We will be performing further measurements and investigations at VELCO substations in coordination with ISO-NE this fall
- Field Tests at substations in the New England and/or Virginia areas are currently under discussion
- With an initial four transmitting stations, eLoran can provide a stable, resilient and complimentary timing, frequency, and data service over the Lower 48 United States



Summary



✓ eLoran *is* a stable, wide area source of PNT for redundancy and resiliency in grid applications.

✓ It works in many locations where GPS is not available. It works when GPS may be untrustworthy.

✓ *Without* differential corrections, eLoran is capable of meeting 2014 FRP timing user requirements of +/- 1 microsecond over very wide areas.

With the application of differential corrections, eLoran is capable of meeting the needs of higher accuracy timing users of +/- 100 nanoseconds over a local area.
eLoran transmitters and receivers are available now in commercial packaging and can be quickly integrated into existing timing products.

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