



Open PNT Industry Alliance Launched to Strengthen National Resilience
*New coalition gives voice to PNT companies seeking open-market approach to backing up
GPS/GNSS for critical infrastructure*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESTON, Va., December 3, 2020 – Today, infiniDome, Iridium Communications, Jackson Labs Technologies, NAVSYS Corporation, NextNav, OPNT, Orolia, Qulsar, Satelles, and Seven Solutions have joined forces to create the Open PNT Industry Alliance (www.openpnt.org). This coalition of positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) companies will fortify economic and national security by supporting government efforts to accelerate the implementation of backup PNT capabilities for critical infrastructure. Other companies sharing these views are invited to join the alliance.

A serious problem facing nations around the world is that the Global Positioning System (GPS) and other Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) are susceptible to inadvertent disruptions and deliberate attacks. Such incidents have the potential to impair or incapacitate communications networks, transportation systems, energy production and distribution platforms, financial services operations, and other types of critical infrastructure. With the scope, complexity, and severity of disruptions and attacks evolving continuously, the combination of wide-ranging PNT solutions and emerging technologies offers superior protection to current threats by providing a backup to GPS/GNSS and improving national resilience.

“Multiple forms of alternative PNT deliver the broadest possible range of operational and performance characteristics to meet the diverse needs of applications across all industry sectors, plus they can better adapt to future threats than a single technology with its inherent vulnerabilities,” said Dr. Michael O’Connor, CEO of Satelles. “The mission of the Open PNT Industry Alliance is to promote open-market concepts that preserve industry’s long-term ability to harness its inventive talent to protect GPS/GNSS with multiple solutions that are technologically advanced, commercially viable, and based on a sustainable long-term funding framework.”

The Open PNT Industry Alliance will share its expertise with governments to aid their efforts to set policies, define regulations, and enact laws that achieve their national resilience objectives while preserving competition in the open market. A principal purpose of the coalition is to stimulate and capitalize on the collective intellect of industry in a collaboration between the public sector and private sector.

“The ingenuity of the private sector is spurred by competition and public and private investment, and this will drive the emergence of multiple GPS/GNSS alternatives that are cost-effective and evolve according to threat profiles, technological innovations, and market dynamics,” said Jean-Yves Courtois, CEO of Orolia. “Similarly, unbridled innovation will address new and still evolving use cases not supported by GPS/GNSS.”

The advent of the Open PNT Industry Alliance is important because the coalition will work closely with governments as they consider plans for regulation of critical infrastructure sectors and funding for alternative PNT. Legislators and policymakers can best pursue national interest through a multi-technology approach to PNT resilience. The coalition will advocate for the establishment of a robust and self-sustaining funding framework that allows for the development and adoption of multiple sources of PNT that meet the needs of various sectors and industries.

“We believe a multi-technology approach to PNT resilience not only meets a more diverse set of critical infrastructure needs but also ensures a more robust approach to security by providing multi-layer resilience. Delivering alternative PNT capabilities on an equal footing with GPS will require government policies and funding that ensure these solutions are cost-effective for critical infrastructure providers and sustainable over the long term,” said Ganesh Pattabiraman, CEO of NextNav.

In the United States, for example, the coalition believes the [Executive Order on “Strengthening National Resilience Through Responsible Use of Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Services”](#) issued in February 2020 begins the process for a national alternative PNT policy. The Open PNT Industry Alliance also agrees with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s findings and recommendations in their [Report on Positioning, Navigation, and Timing \(PNT\) Backup and Complementary Capabilities to the Global Positioning System \(GPS\)](#) submitted to the U.S. Congress in April 2020. The alliance expects to support similar initiatives in other countries.

The Open PNT Industry Alliance will be introduced in an Orolia PNT Coffee Talk™ webinar on Thursday, December 17, at 10:00am EST ([click to register](#)).

For additional details about the Open PNT Industry Alliance — including background on members, policy views, and how companies can join — please visit www.openpnt.org.

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