UNAVCO involvement in GPS for more than twenty years has created a global reputation of excellence. Their continually evolving understanding of GPS and support to the science community is exceptional. The UNAVCO facility and community have been engaged in the International GNSS Service (IGS)† since its inception in the late 1980s. When the IGS was officially established in 1994 by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), UNAVCO had already been globally recognized as an important influence in GPS observations and geodynamical applications. UNAVCO has always been an important participant and contributor to the IGS: as such, a number of facility and community individuals are Associate Members of the IGS, the electing body of the IGS International Governing Board. A joint facility of the NSF and NASA, UNAVCO, in conjunction with NASA JPL, provides the engineering expertise for implementation and support of NASA's Global GPS Network (GGN). NASA's GGN is the single largest network contributng to the IGS, operating about 60 of the nearly 400 stations (see figure left), and thus the UNAVCO Facility has high visibility in the international community. UNAVCO also provides support to the coordinating office of the IGS, the Central Bureau located at JPL, and plans are underway to expand and enhance this support. UNAVCO has been particularly engaged with a key project supported by IGS – the Unification of African Reference Frames - AFREF. This ongoing project led by key individuals and organizations within Africa plans to unify the 50+ national datums throughout Africa, realizing a continental, state-of-the-art reference frame through linked GPS networks. This work will extend the global IGS network and further improve the realization of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF). UNAVCO’s unique expertise in working in remote and challenging environments is well suited to facilitate, train, and provide technical support as the AFREF participants leap-frog the past ten years of GPS advancements and immediately access and utilize current day technology and analyses. This participation exemplifies UNAVCO’s unique position to contribute to IAG’s emerging Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS). GGOS is an integration of geodetic techniques for improved understanding of the Earth system. UNAVCO’s global facilitation of GPS observations in concert with other geodetic techniques, including gravity, will be an important component towards achieving GGOS objectives.

† In 2005, IGS name changed from International GPS Service to reflect the inclusion of both GPS and GLONASS, and the future expectations to incorporate future GNSS, such as the European Galileo system.