

Being delivered by Germany's MT Mechatronics and its Spanish sub-contractor Asturfeito, the antennas were installed in 2016.

In August 2017 NASA and NMA signed an agreement to develop a state-of-the-art Satellite Laser Ranging facility. The current goal is to have all systems up and running in Ny-Ålesund by 2022.

"An SLR in Ny-Ålesund will be important because it allows us to observe satellites in Polar orbits," Opseth explains.



PHOTO: BJØRN-OWE HOLMBERG

The UN calls for enhanced cooperation on global geodesy

The United Nations is now calling for greater multilateral cooperation to secure a more accurate and stable global geodetic reference frame as a basis for sustainable development.

"It is about ensuring that all countries in this world have access to precise positioning because we know it benefits their societies and the people that live within them. The geodetic reference frame makes this possible," says Gary Johnston, co-chair of the UN Subcommittee on Geodesy.

The new geodetic Earth observatory in Ny-Ålesund is Norway's most important contribution to the global geodetic reference frame, as called for by the United Nations resolution "A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development", which was adopted by the General Assembly in February 2015. Norway co-chaired work on this resolution and towards the inauguration of the United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy in Mexico City in November 2017.

The subcommittee on geodesy is now developing the implementation plan for the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) Roadmap, and a position paper to strengthen the GGRF governance structure.

"Noting the societal reliance on the global geodetic reference frame and the positive impact on economic development of its use, it is of concern that very few formal agreements are in place that ensure GGRF sustainability", says Laila Løvhøiden, head of department for Global Geodesy at the Norwegian Mapping Authority and leading the UN Subcommittee on Geodesy's work on governance.

The subcommittee will report its recommendations to the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its eighth session in August 2018.

"We are about strengthening the role of geodesy in society and providing a greater governmental mandate that will hopefully result in sustainable operations of geodetic infrastructure and capacity development programs as well", says Gary Johnston.

“ *We are about strengthening the role of geodesy in society and providing a greater governmental mandate .»*

Gary Johnston

Co-chair, United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy

■ FACTS:

Geodesy

- The basis for Earth observation.
- The science of the Earth's shape, motion, gravitational field and changes to these.
- Fundamental for monitoring climate change and for all mapping.



Kartverket

Norwegian Mapping Authority
Postboks 600 Sentrum,
3507 Hønefoss
Norway

Telephone: (+ 47) 32 11 80 00
E-mail: post@kartverket.no
www.kartverket.no