

## **New GPS IIF Satellite Goes Operational**

On March 25, 2015, the ninth Global Positioning System (GPS) IIF satellite was launched and is expected to be operational by the end of April. GPS IIF satellites were first introduced into the GPS constellation in 2010 and additional IIF satellites will be introduced in the future. IIF satellites are being developed and launched as a part of the sustainment activities for the GPS constellation; but, they also add new capabilities. Most notable of these capabilities is the provision of the L5 signal. As noted by the

GPS.GOV New Civil Signals web page, L5 is “broadcast in a radio band reserved exclusively for aviation safety services. It features higher power, greater bandwidth, and an advanced signal design”. The name, L5, refers to “the U.S. designation for the radio frequency used by the signal (1176 MHz)”. The availability of L5 will improve GPS accuracy, interference mitigation, and signal robustness.” The IIF satellites also include improved atomic clocks. To learn more about the GPS constellation and IIF satellites, please visit the GPS.GOV Space Segment page.

- Mary Ann Davis, FAA AJM-321/NAVTAC

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