



## **eLoran + GNSS: Diversity for Safety and Security**

There is no question that the world is converging on precise time as a necessity for economic growth, communications, positioning, safety and security. Whether it be for cell phones or Internet; for location-based services or surveying; or for air, sea and land navigation - precise time is the enabling technology.

It is therefore not surprising that two recent events received so much attention, one disruptive and the other sinister and of long term significance: the sun gave an unprecedented out-of-season cough, and China demonstrated satellite-killer technology.

There are just two methods for obtaining and maintaining nanosecond time synchronization throughout the world, one from satellites (GNSS), and the other from land (Loran). Neither is totally immune from interruption but together the partners provide a degree of continuity that meets the most stringent requirements.

Will the metamorphosed *eLoran* become the terrestrial component? This question was posed to the public in an announcement placed in the US Federal Register during March of this year. The international response was an overwhelming endorsement for worldwide continuance and expansion of the loran service.

Latest statistics report 3 billion mobile phone users worldwide, over 1 billion internet users (2007 world population 6.6 billion) and an undefined GPS user population. In a few words, nanosecond precise time has become the backbone for global human activity leading to the conclusion that delivery diversity is mandatory. This is the theme for the ILA 36th Annual Convention and Technical Symposium.

*including the Organization Meeting of **RTCM Special Committee 127 - eLoran***

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