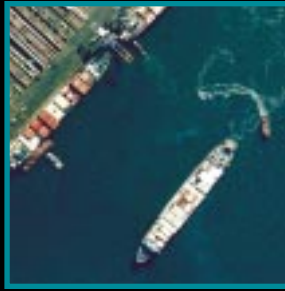


New Heights, New Opportunities

NOAA's leadership in establishing the National Spatial Reference System has been key to the imaginative application of myriad new-age technologies. Its recently launched Height Modernization effort, which will accelerate NOAA's completion of the system's network of vertical (height) coordinates, is setting the stage for applications of tomorrow's technologies. This NOAA aerial photo of the San Francisco Bay area highlights how access to accurate, reliable, real-time height information can save time and money and protect lives, property, and the environment.





Knowing the vertical distance between a ship's bottom and the channel floor minimizes ship groundings, environmental damage, and the time spent waiting for ideal conditions to enter or leave a port.



Knowing how high an aircraft's landing gear is above the runway ensures safe, smooth landing, even in zero-visibility weather.



Knowing the vertical distance between the bottom of a bridge and the top of a ship allows captains to navigate safely and precisely and avoid damaging the ship and the bridge.



Knowing the changes in heights of elevated infrastructure can help trigger warning systems, alerting motorists to the potential collapse of roadways in an earthquake.

Knowing the height of the bulldozer blade with respect to the coal pile and loading equipment helps prevent damage to the conveyor belt and costly delays in loading, which are ultimately paid for by consumers.

