

IAF SYMPOSIUM ON INTEGRATED APPLICATIONS (B5)
Satellite Commercial Applications (3)

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CONNECTING 4,000,000 PEOPLE TO SPACE-BASED SERVICES

Abstract

The City of Los Angeles has evolved into one of the most connected cities on the planet. Through a robust set of public-private partnerships with telecommunications companies, the use of data and GIS to show areas of digital divide, and the rapid adoption of new technologies, more Angelenos are getting connected in fast, affordable ways. From Starlink to Starry, commercial satellite and 5G companies are part of this innovation. In addition, the use of satellite data for changing the quality of life has rapidly expanded.

In one such use, NASA and the City of Los Angeles are working to understand the intersection of health issues (with a focus on air quality) and transportation, particularly the new operational planning for urban air mobility. This is a critical issue for cities around the world as companies are already starting to operate drones for deliveries within cities but without coordination or understanding of the impact of such operations. Data from satellites related to land use, vertical infrastructure, air traffic and patterns, and air quality are all used in making such models.

Creating the urban air mobility model is being shared with other cities in the same way Los Angeles did for the mobility data specification, now used by hundreds of cities and micro-mobility commercial organizations. This work is part of expanding standards that bridge government and industry in creative ways to advance aerial mobility first on the Earth and as a precursor to other planets.

This project is funded through NASA's Advanced Information Systems Technology Program.