



875-0364-0

User Guide

Revision: A1

August 01, 2017

A222™

Smart Antenna

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

This product complies with the essential requirements and other relevant provisions of Directive 2014/53/EU. The declaration of conformity may be consulted at <https://hemispheregnss.com/About-Us/Quality-Commitment>.

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6501346	7277792	7460942	8102325	8271194	
6539303	7292185	7689354	8138970	8307535	
6549091	7292186	7808428	8140223	8311696	
6711501	7373231	7835832	8174437	8334804	
6744404	7388539	7885745	8184050	RE41358	
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Chapter 1: Introduction

Overview

Key Features

Parts List

Product Support

Introduction

Overview

Hemisphere GNSS' all new scalable A222 was designed to excel in challenging environments, and is ideal for use with various applications, including precision agriculture, machine control, construction, mining, and marine.

The A222 is a multi-GNSS RTK, high accuracy GNSS receiver that allows you to work quickly and accurately. Built on Hemisphere GNSS' Eclipse™ platform, A222 boasts the latest GNSS patented technology and offers quick startup and reacquisition times.

The A222 can be updated by adding L1/L2 GLONASS activations and subscriptions for Athena RTK and/or Atlas L-Band. Athena RTK is Hemisphere's most advanced RTK processing software that can be added to the A222 as a subscription service.

Note: Throughout the rest of this manual, A222 Smart Antenna is referred to simply as A222.



Figure 1-1: A222 Smart Antenna

A222 is a versatile smart antenna with several first-class features:

- Utilizes Hemisphere's Athena GNSS engine
- Atlas support over L-Band corrections
- Environment-proven enclosure for the most aggressive user scenarios

Athena RTK has the following benefits:

- Improved Initialization time. Performing initializations in less than 15 seconds at better than 99.9% of the time
- Robustness in difficult operating environments. Extremely high productivity under the most aggressive of geographic and landscape oriented environments
- Performance on long baselines. Industry-leading position stability for long baseline applications
- Performance under scintillation. Sustained accuracy under ionospheric scintillation activities, in high scintillation-affected areas
- Atlas L-Band is Hemisphere's industry leading correction service, which can be added to the A222 as a subscription

Atlas L-Band benefits include the following:

- **Positioning accuracy.** Competitive positioning accuracies down to 4 cm RMS in certain applications
- **Positioning sustainability.** Cutting edge position quality maintenance in the absence of correction signals, using Hemisphere’s patented technology
- **Scalable service levels.** Capable of providing virtually any accuracy, precision and repeatability level in the 4 to 100 cm range
- **Convergence time.** Industry-leading convergence times of 10-40 minutes

Key Features

Key features of A222 include:

- Centimeter-level accuracy using Atlas* or Athena** technology in a rugged, all-in-one enclosure (*requires subscription **requires activation)
- Improved GNSS performance—particularly with RTK and/or L-Band applications
- Very fast RTK fix and reacquisition times
- Supports, NMEA 0183, NMEA 2000*, for communication with external devices (*requires NMEA certification)
- Wide operating voltage range of 8-32 VDC, providing high transient protection for any power source
- Integrated 2D tilt sensor enables offset corrections

A222 supports a variety of protocols for communicating with navigation systems, CAN systems, and other devices.

Parts List

Table 1-1 provides the part name and description, quantity, and part number for each part in your kit.

Table 1-1: A222 Parts List/Accessory Items

Part Name/Description	Qty	Part Number
A222 GNSS Smart Antenna	1	804-0153-0
Mounting adapter, 1" to 5/8" Pole Mount	1	710-0130-0
Mounting adapter, Flat Mount	1	710-0129-0
<i>Note: Your kit will include one of the above adapters, depending on your order.</i>		
<i>The following accessory items are available for purchase separately for your A222.</i>		
Power/data cable (single DB9), 3 m	1	051-0129-002
Power/data cable (unterminated), 4.6 m	1	051-0169-000

Product Support

If you have questions regarding the setup, configuration, or operation of A222, contact your local dealer. For additional support information see [“Technical Support”](#).



Chapter 2: Installation

Display, Mounting, and Connectors

LED Display

Mounting A222

Powering A222

Installation

Display, Mounting, and Connectors

All connections and ports are located on the bottom of the unit, as shown in Figure 2-1. Table 2-1 provides additional information about each port/connection.

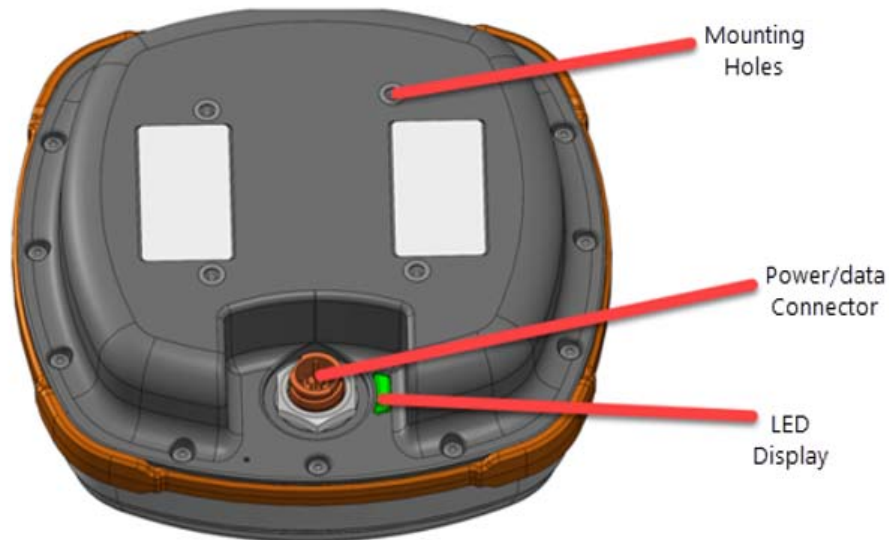


Figure 2-1: A222

Table 2-1: A222 Ports and Connections

Port/Connection	Description
Mounting holes	Four off-set mounting holes. Two adapters are available, the first includes a marine 1" standard, adaptable to 5/8". The second allows for flush mounting the unit.
Power, data port (12-pin)	External power/data cable; allows you to supply power to A222 as well as communicate with external devices via NMEA 0183 serial, and binary.

LED Display

A222 uses a single LED (see Figure 2-1) that provides system information based on the color of the LED as follows:

- Blinking Red - Power on
- Blinking Amber - GNSS position available, including RTK float and Atlas
- Blinking Green - RTK-fixed or Atlas-converged position available
- Blinking any color - Receiver operational

⚠WARNING: If at any time the LED turns to a solid color for an extended period, the receiver has malfunctioned.

Mounting A222

This section provides information on where to mount your antenna and the different mounting options available.

Selecting the Proper Antenna Location

Proper antenna placement is critical to positioning accuracy.

To select the proper antenna location:

- Place the antenna with an unobstructed view of the sky. An obstructed view of the sky may impair system performance. The GNSS engine computes a position based on measurements from each satellite to the internal GNSS receiver.
- Mount the antenna on, or as close as possible to, the center of your point of measurement. For example, ideal antenna placement on a vehicle is the center of the cab roof, assuming there is a clear view of the sky.
- Position the antenna as high as possible.

Routing and Securing the Cables

Consider the following when routing cables:

- Power/data cable must reach an appropriate power source
- Power/data cable may connect to a data storage device, computer, or other device that accepts GNSS data
- Do not run cables in areas of excessive heat
- Do not expose cables to corrosive chemicals
- Do not crimp or excessively bend cables
- Do not place tension on cables
- Coil up excess cable in the cab of the vehicle or near the antenna
- Secure along the cable route using plastic tie wraps as necessary
- Do not run cables near high voltage or strong RF noise and transmitter sources

⚠WARNING: Improperly installed cables near machinery may cause injury or death.

Mounting Options

A222 allows for the following mounting options:

- Surface-mount
- Pole-mount

Surface Mount

You can surface-mount A222 with four machine screws (no. 8-32).

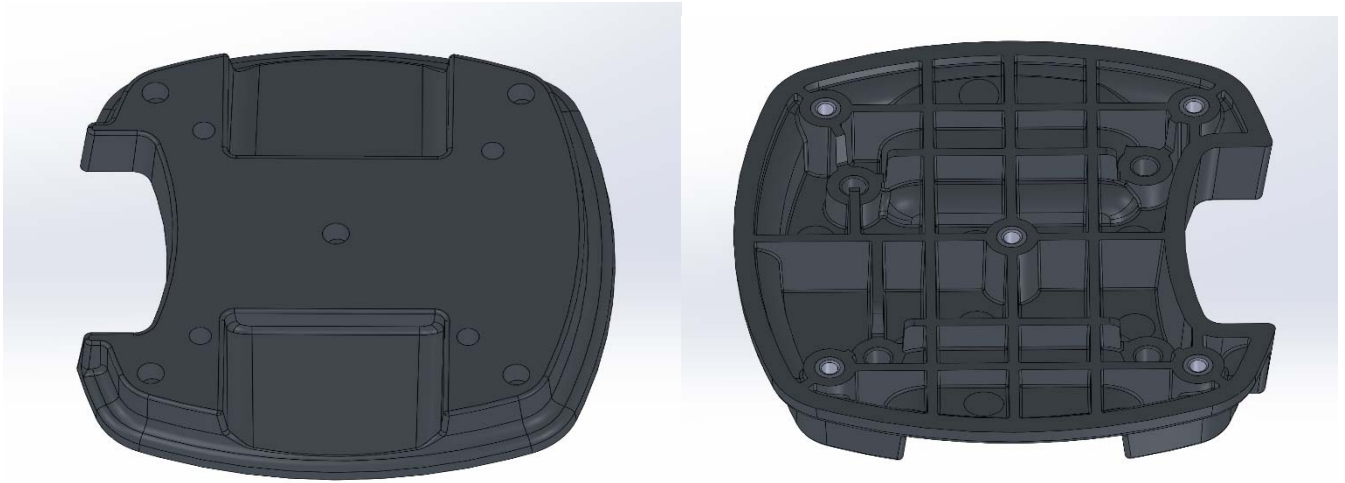


Figure 2-2: A222 Top/Bottom

To surface-mount A222:

1. Determine the desired location for A222 (see [Selecting the Proper Antenna Location](#)).
2. Refer to the template of the bottom portion of the A222 surface-mount (provided with A222 accessories). Use the outer four holes per your installation.
3. Mark the mounting hole centers on the mounting surface.
4. Place A222 surface mount over the marks to ensure the planned hole centers align with the true hole centers (adjusting as necessary).
5. Use a center punch to mark the hole centers.
6. Drill the mounting holes with a 5mm bit appropriate for the surface.
7. Use four machine screws (no. 8-32) to attach A222 to the surface mount adapter before securing the complete unit to the intended area.
8. Place A222 surface mount over the mounting holes and insert the mounting screws through the bottom of the mounting surface into A222 surface mount adapter.

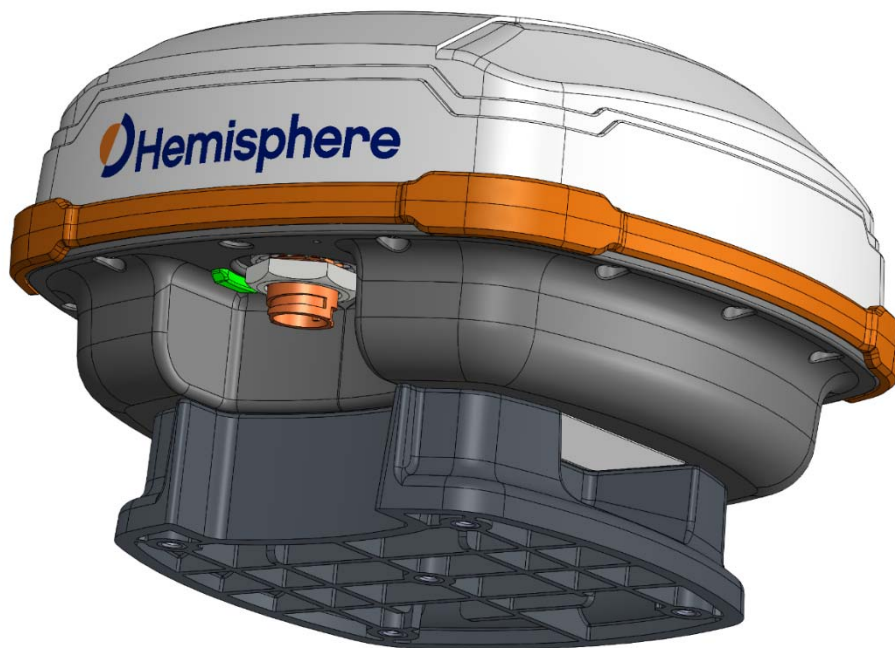


Figure 2-3: A222 Antenna with Surface Mount Accessory

⚠ WARNING: Hand-tighten only (10 to 12 in-lbs). Damage resulting from over-tightening is not covered by the warranty.

Pole Mount

The center thread on the bottom of A222 is 1-14 UNS. The mounting assembly included with A222 includes a 5/8-11 UNC adapter. Simply thread the riser/pole into the antenna until snug.



Figure 2-4: Pole Mount

⚠ WARNING: Hand-tighten only (screws 10-12 in-lbs; pole 35-40 in-lbs.) . Damage resulting from over-tightening is not covered by the warranty.

Powering A222

Power Considerations

A222 accepts an input voltage of 8-32 VDC. For best performance use a clean and continuous power supply. When applying 12 VDC, A222 will draw approximately 3.2W.

Connecting to a Power Source

A222 uses a single cable for power and data input/output.

Note: A power/data cable is not supplied with A222, but is available as an accessory item. See [Table 1-1](#) for a list of accessory items.

Note: The following information refers to using the accessory item cables available from Hemisphere GNSS.

The antenna end of the cable is terminated with an environmentally-sealed 12-pin connector and the opposite end is either DB9 or unterminated (requires field stripping and tinning).

To power A222:

- Connect A222 to a 12 VDC source. **Note:** Selecting the right power connector will depend on your specific installation requirements.

⚠WARNING: Do not apply a voltage higher than 32 VDC. This will damage the receiver and void the warranty.

A222 features reverse polarity protection to prevent excessive damage if the power leads are accidentally reversed. With the application of power, A222 automatically proceeds through an internal startup sequence; however, it is ready to communicate immediately.

Power/Data Connector

Figure 2-5 shows the 12-pin power/data connector pinout assignments and Table 2-2 provides the pinout specifications.

Note: The Wire Color column in Table 2-2 refers to the color of the wires at the unterminated end of accessory item 051-0169-000 (4.6 m unterminated power/data cable).

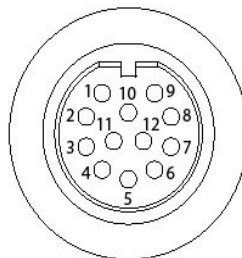


Figure 2-5: Power Assignments

Table 2-2: Pinout Specifications

Pin	Description	Wire Color
1	Manual mark in	White
2	Port B Tx	Brown
3	Port B Rx	Blue
4	CAN high	Orange
5	Signal ground	Yellow
6	Port A Tx	Violet
7	1 PPS	Gray
8	Port A Rx	Pink
9	CAN low	Tan
10	Power in (12 V)	Red
11	Power ground	Black
12	Speed out	Green

Note: For successful communication, the baud rate of the A222 serial ports (Port A and Port B) must be set to match that of the connected devices.



Chapter 3: Using A222

GNSS Operation
Differential Operation
Default Parameters
Configuring the A222

Using A222

For your convenience, both the GNSS and differential correction of the A222 are preconfigured. The receiver will work out-of-the-box, and for most applications, little user setup is necessary. When powered for the first time, the A222 will perform a “cold start,” which involves acquiring the available GNSS satellites in view and the SBAS differential service.

GNSS Operation

The GNSS receiver is always operating, regardless of the DGNSS mode of operation. The following sections describe the general operation of the A222’s internal GNSS receiver.

Automatic Tracking

The A222’s internal GNSS receiver automatically searches for GNSS satellites, acquires the signals, and manages the navigation information required for positioning and tracking.

Receiver Performance

The A222 works by finding four or more GNSS satellites in the visible sky and uses information from the satellites to compute a position within 2.4 m. Since there is some error in the GNSS data calculations, the A222 also tracks a differential correction. The A222 uses these corrections to improve its position accuracy to better than 0.6 m.

The two main aspects of GNSS receiver performance are 1) satellite acquisition, and 2) positioning and heading calculation.

When the A222 is properly positioned, the satellites transmit coded information to the antenna on a specific frequency. This allows the receiver to calculate a range to each satellite.

GNSS is essentially a timing system. The ranges are calculated by timing how long it takes for the signal to reach the GNSS antenna. The GNSS receiver uses a complex algorithm incorporating satellite locations and ranges to each satellite to calculate the geographic location and heading. Reception of any four or more GNSS signals allows the receiver to compute three-dimensional coordinates.

Differential Operation

The purpose of differential GNSS (DGNSS) is to remove the effects of atmospheric errors, timing errors, and satellite orbit errors, while enhancing system integrity. Autonomous positioning capabilities of the A222 will result in positioning accuracies of 2.4 m 95% of the time. To improve positioning quality to better than 0.6 m 95%, the A222 can use differential corrections received through the internal SBAS demodulator or through externally supplied RTCM corrections.

Automatic SBAS Tracking

The A222 automatically scans and tracks SBAS signals without the need to tune the receiver. The A222 features three-channel tracking that provides an enhanced ability to maintain a lock on an SBAS satellite when more than one satellite is in view.

Default Parameters

Setting	Description
DGNSS	Application: Newest GNSS FW found at www.hgnss.com
Serial ports A and B	Baud rate: 4800, 9600, 19200, 57600, 115200 Data bits: 8 Parity: None Stop bit: 1 Interface level: RS-232
GNSS messages	Type: Hemisphere GNSS binary, NMEA 0183, NMEA 2000 Update rate: 1 Hz to 20 Hz* Max DGNSS age: 259,200 sec Elevation mask: 5° *With Activation Code

Configuring the A222

You can configure the A222 through the serial port using Hemisphere GNSS commands. For example, you can select the:

- Baud rate
- NMEA 2000 data message to output on the dual serial ports and the update rate of each message

Note: Use the \$JSAVE command to save changes you make to the A222's configuration for the changes to be present in subsequent power cycles.

For information on Hemisphere GNSS commands refer to the [Hemisphere GNSS Technical Reference](#).

Auto-Seed

Auto-Seed allows the end user to shut down their device in a static position for any extended period of time. If the antenna remains stationary at shut down, the position status and Atlas convergence will remain in the device memory and resume upon start-up. This enables the Atlas solution to regain its accurate position within two minutes of start-up.

Auto-Seed provides quick response positioning and enables the customer to get to work faster and with confidence in the GNSS solution.



Appendix A: Troubleshooting

Appendix A: Troubleshooting

Table A-1 provides a list of issues with possible solutions to help you troubleshoot anomalous A222 operation.

Table A-1: Troubleshooting

Issue	Possible Solution
Receiver fails to power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify polarity of power leads • Check integrity of power cable connections • Check power input voltage (8 - 32VDC) • Check current restrictions imposed by power source (maximum is 300 mA at 12 VDC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No data from the A222 • No communication • No valid data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check receiver power status • Check integrity and connectivity of power and data cable connections • Verify the baud rate settings match • Verify receiver responds to valid \$J Command (\$JI) • Verify it is locked to a valid DGNSS signal • Verify it is locked to 4 or more GNSS satellites
Random binary data from A222	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the RTCM or the BIN messages are not being accidentally output • Verify the baud rate settings match • Potentially, the volume of data requested to be output could be higher than the current baud rate supports. Try either using a higher baud rate for communications or decreasing the number of messages and/or baud rates
No GNSS lock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the integrity of the antenna's power/data cable • Verify the antenna is outdoors with a clear a view of the sky • Verify the lock status and signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of GNSS satellites
No GNSS position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify the antenna is outdoors with a clear view of the sky
A222 LED not blinking after connection to power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify polarity of power leads • Check integrity of power cable connections • Check power input voltage (8 - 32 VDC)
A222 LED displays solid color (not blinking)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power-cycle the receiver • Contact Technical Support



Appendix B: Technical Specifications

Appendix B: Technical Specifications

Table B-1 through Table B-7 provides the GNSS sensor, horizontal accuracy, L-Band sensor, communication, power, environmental, and mechanical specifications for the A222.

Table B-1: GNSS Sensor Specifications

Item	Specification
Receiver type	GNSS L1, G1 (Standard) GNSS L2, L-band, RTK (optional)
Signals received	GNSS, GLONASS, and Atlas
Channels	114
GNSS sensitivity	-142 dBm
SBAS tracking	3-channel, parallel tracking
Update rate	10 Hz standard, 20 Hz optional (with activation)
Pitch/roll accuracy	1° using tilt sensor
Timing (1PPS) accuracy:	20 ns
Cold start	< 60 s typical (no almanac or RTC)
Warm start	< 30 s typical (almanac and RTC)
Hot start	< 10 s typical (almanac, RTC, and position)
Maximum speed	1,850 kph (999 kts)
Maximum altitude	18,288 m (60,000 ft)

Table B-2: Horizontal Accuracy

Item	Specification	
	RMS (67%)	2DRMS (95%)
RTK ^{1,2}	8 mm+1 ppm	15 mm+2 ppm
L-band ^{1,3}	0.04 m	0.08 m
SBAS (WAAS) ¹	0.3 m	0.6 m
Autonomous	1.2 m	2.4 m

Table B-3: L-band Sensor Specifications

Item	Specification
Receiver Type	Single Channel
Channels	1530 to 1560 MHz
Sensitivity	-130 dBm
Channel spacing	5.0 kHz
Satellite selection	Manual and Automatic
Reacquisition time	15 seconds (typical)

Table B-4: Communication Specifications

Item	Specification
Serial	2 full-duplex RS-232

Table B-4: Communication Specifications (continued)

Item	Specification
Baud rates	4800 - 115200
Data I/O protocol	NMEA 0183, NMEA 2000*, and Hemisphere GNSS binary. <i>*requires NMEA certification</i>
Correction I/O protocol	Hemisphere GNSS proprietary, RTCM v2.3 (DGNSS), RTCM v3 (RTK), CMR (RTK), CMR+ (RTK) ⁴
Timing output	1 PPS CMOS, active high, rising edge sync, 10 kΩ, 10 pF load
Event marker input	CMOS, active low, falling edge sync, 10 kΩ, 10 pF load

Table B-5: Power Specifications

Item	Specification
Input voltage	8- 32 VDC with reverse polarity operation
Power consumption	< 3.2 W nominal GNSS (L1/L2), GLONASS (L1/L2) and L-band
Current consumption	0.26 A nominal GNSS (L1/L2), GLONASS (L1/L2) and L-band
Power isolation	No
Reverse polarity protection	Yes
Antenna voltage	Internal antenna

Table B-6: Environmental Specifications

Item	Specification
Operating temperature	-40° C to +70° C (-40° F to +158° F)
Storage temperature	-40° C to +85° C (-40° F to +185° F)
Humidity	95% non-condensing
Shock and Vibration	Mechanical Shock: EP455 Section 5.14.1 Operational Vibration: EP455 Section 5.15.1 Random
EMC	CE (ISO 14982 Emissions and Immunity), FCC Part 15, Subpart B, CISPR 22
Enclosure	IP67

Table B-7: Mechanical Specifications

Item	Specification
Dimensions	15.8 L x 15.8 W x 7.9 H (cm) 6.2 L x 6.2 W x 3.2 H (in)
Weight	<1.05 kg (<2.30 lbs)

Table B-7: Mechanical Specifications (continued)

Item	Specification
Status indicators (LED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blinking Red - Power on • Blinking Amber - GNSS position available, including RTK float and Atlas • Blinking Green - RTK-fixed or Atlas-converged position available • Blinking any color - Receiver operational
Power/data connector	12-pin male (metal)
Antenna mounting	1-14 UNS female, 5/8-11 UNC female adapter, and surface mount available

¹ Depends on multipath environment, number of satellites in view, satellite geometry and ionospheric activity

² Depends also on baseline length

³ Requires a subscription for Atlas

⁴ Receive only, does not transmit this format

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