



GPS+ systems put irrigation project on fast track



"North to south mountain ranges diminish our horizons. The additional GLONASS satellites have kept us working when the GPS satellites alone wouldn't have been enough."

Carlos Encinas
Survey Supervisor
Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project
Sacaton, AZ



With a construction project planned to irrigate over 146,000 acres on the Gila River Indian Community, the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project needed a system that not only sped up the surveying and staking process but was also easy to learn for relatively inexperienced survey crews. "In our situation, the key to productivity is learning... and learning fast. The combination of Topcon's GPS equipment and the excellent support supplied by their distributor has made our crews productive almost from day one" explained Carlos Encinas, survey supervisor for the project.

Another great benefit to the Legacy-E RTK GPS system is the speed at which they can now accomplish lengthy staking projects. It's not unusual for the crew to stake alignments over six miles long—A task that could take two to three weeks to stake with conventional total stations. "With GPS we do it in four to five days," Encinas said.

Switching to RTK GPS with GLONASS systems provided an added advantage that had not been considered—it allowed the crews greater relief from the scorching desert sun. "Our Topcon system has very fast acquisition and it maintains tracking in virtually all conditions. This allows us to go from the truck, get the points and back out of the heat faster than I thought possible. In an area where 120 degree air temperature is not uncommon, that's a big advantage!"



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