



# GEONETCast Americas



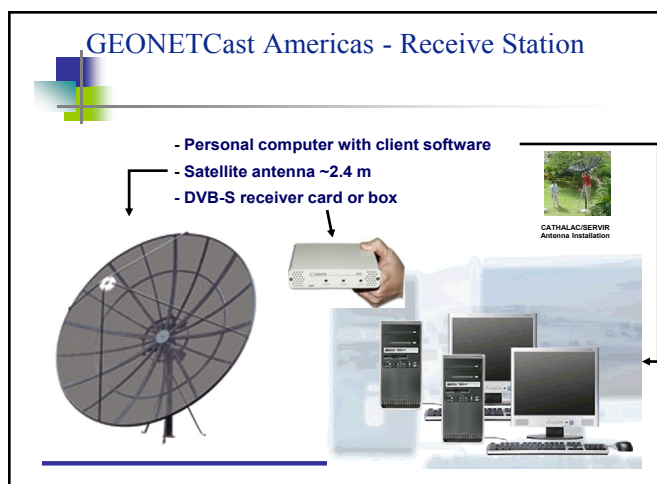
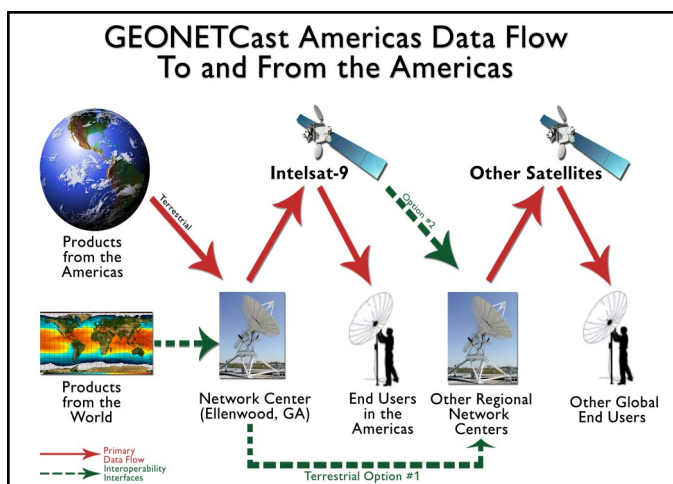
The GEONETCast Americas (GNC-A) system is a satellite-based information dissemination system broadcasting satellite, atmospheric, and in situ earth observation data and products. GNC-A provides data and services for the entire Latin American and Caribbean region in the following areas: weather, climate, public health, energy, agriculture, water, natural disasters and eco-systems. GNC-A is part of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), an international effort to compile and disseminate relevant data and products.

GNC-A is operated by NOAA and partners from other US government agencies and from Costa Rica, Panama, Argentina and Brazil, which provide regional products. It provides early warning on severe weather, floods, droughts, wildfires, and volcanic eruptions. The GNC-A broadcasts from the Intelsat-21 (IS-21) geostationary satellite on the C-band. The current bandwidth is 2 megabits per second and it is highly reliable: greater than 99.5% availability. The system broadcasts 5,000 files per day in these areas relevant to the region. A receiving station requires a satellite dish, a receiver, specialized software, and a computer. The cost of hardware and software of a receive station is about US \$3,000.

GNC-A receive stations can be installed anywhere in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Stations only require a direct view to the IS-21 satellite and electricity. Once the system is installed, receiving the broadcast is completely free of cost.

NOAA is donating 14 GNC-A receive stations to Meteorological Services, Emergency Management Agencies, Environment Ministries and universities in Belize, Barbados, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico. Haiti will also soon have a receive station.

GNC-A can now broadcast satellite imagery when the International Charter Space and Major Disasters is activated. During the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, telecommunications in both countries were disrupted and could not receive the satellite imagery on a timely manner. Using GNC-A will expedite delivery of the satellite imagery for a rapid response to disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean. GNC-A can improve preparedness and response to natural disasters in the Western Hemisphere.



[www.geonetcastamericas.noaa.gov](http://www.geonetcastamericas.noaa.gov)

<http://www.geonetcastamericas.noaa.gov/products/navigator/indexer.html>

<http://www.eumetsat.int/Home/Main/DataProducts/ProductNavigator/ndex.htm>