



# Advances in GNSS Technology and how they relate to Quarries



QuarryNZ 2024 Conference  
The Future is Digital:  
Navigating Shifts in Technology  
July 2024

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B.E. (Mining) First Class Honours  
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S & S NZ Certified Professional Engineering Surveyor  
Associate Member Survey & Spatial NZ  
Director  
Pilbrow Surveying Limited





# Advances in GNSS Technology and how they relate to Quarries

- Surveying Impact
- Historical Development
- Operational Insights
- Future Quarry Operations

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# GNSS technology evolution





# GNSS technology evolution



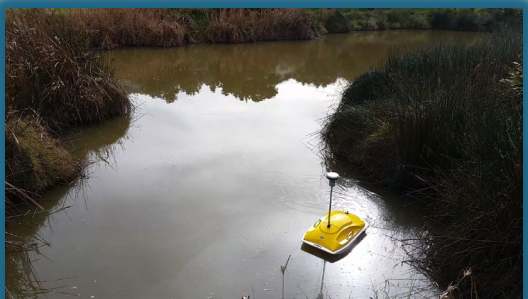


# GNSS technology evolution





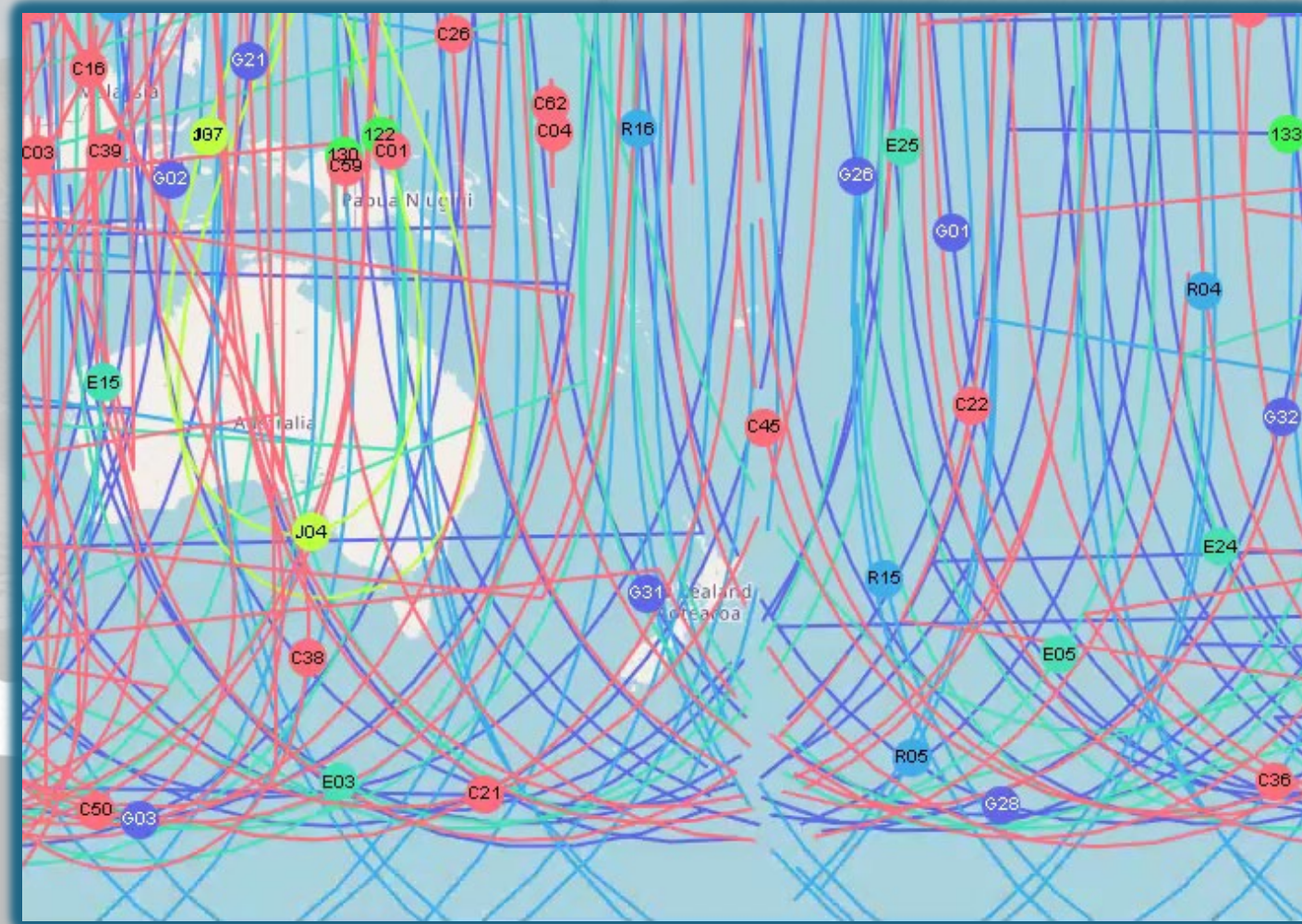
# GNSS technology evolution







# Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)







# Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

**GPS**



**Global Positioning System  
United States Air Force**





# Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

**GPS**



**GLONASS**



**Global'naya Navigatsionnaya  
Sputnikovaya Sistema  
Russian Federation**





# Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

**GPS**



**GLONASS**



**GALILEO**



**Galileo**  
**European Union Agency for  
the Space Programme**





# Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

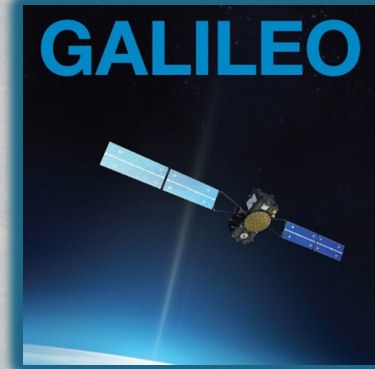
**GPS**



**GLONASS**



**GALILEO**



**BEIDOU**

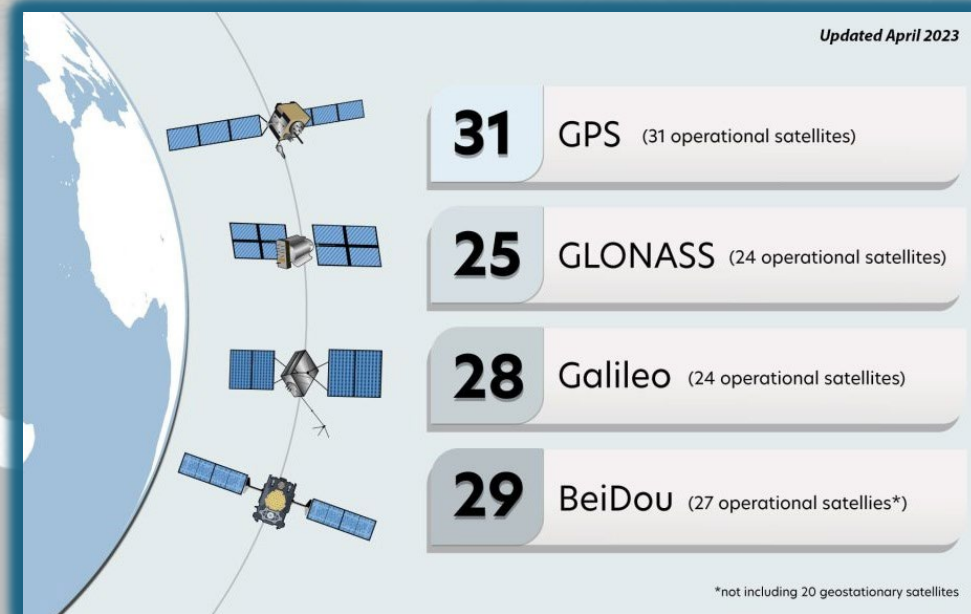
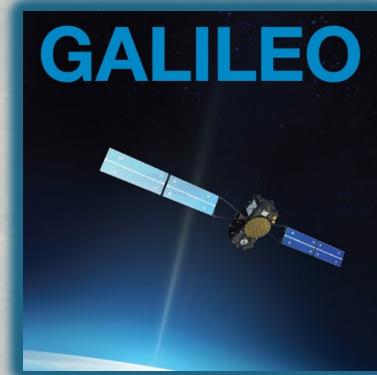


**BeiDou Navigation Satellite  
System  
China National Space  
Administration**





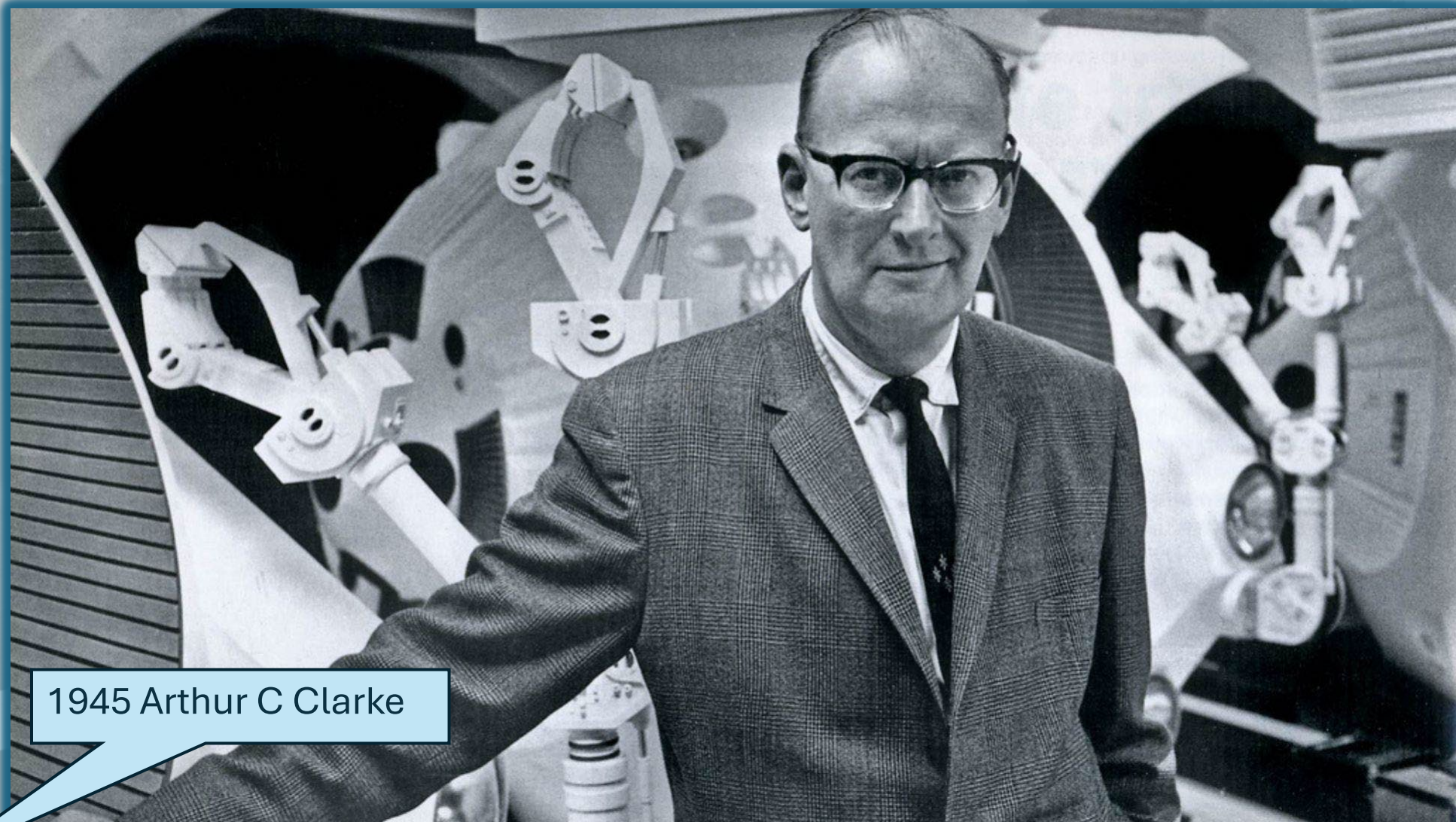
# Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)



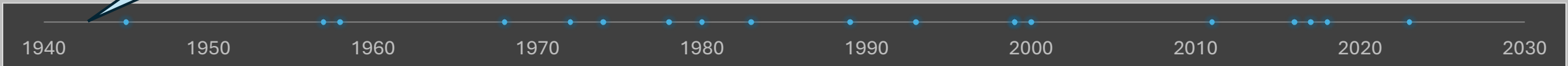




# GNSS History



1945 Arthur C Clarke



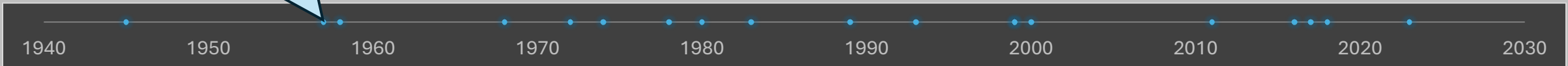




# GNSS History



1957 Sputnik launched







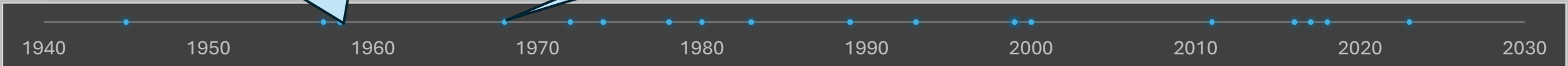
# GNSS History



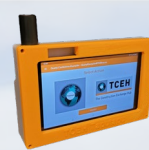
1958 Transit developed



1968 Transit operational







# GNSS History



1972 US Air Force oversees satellite navigation program

1975 Navstar developed



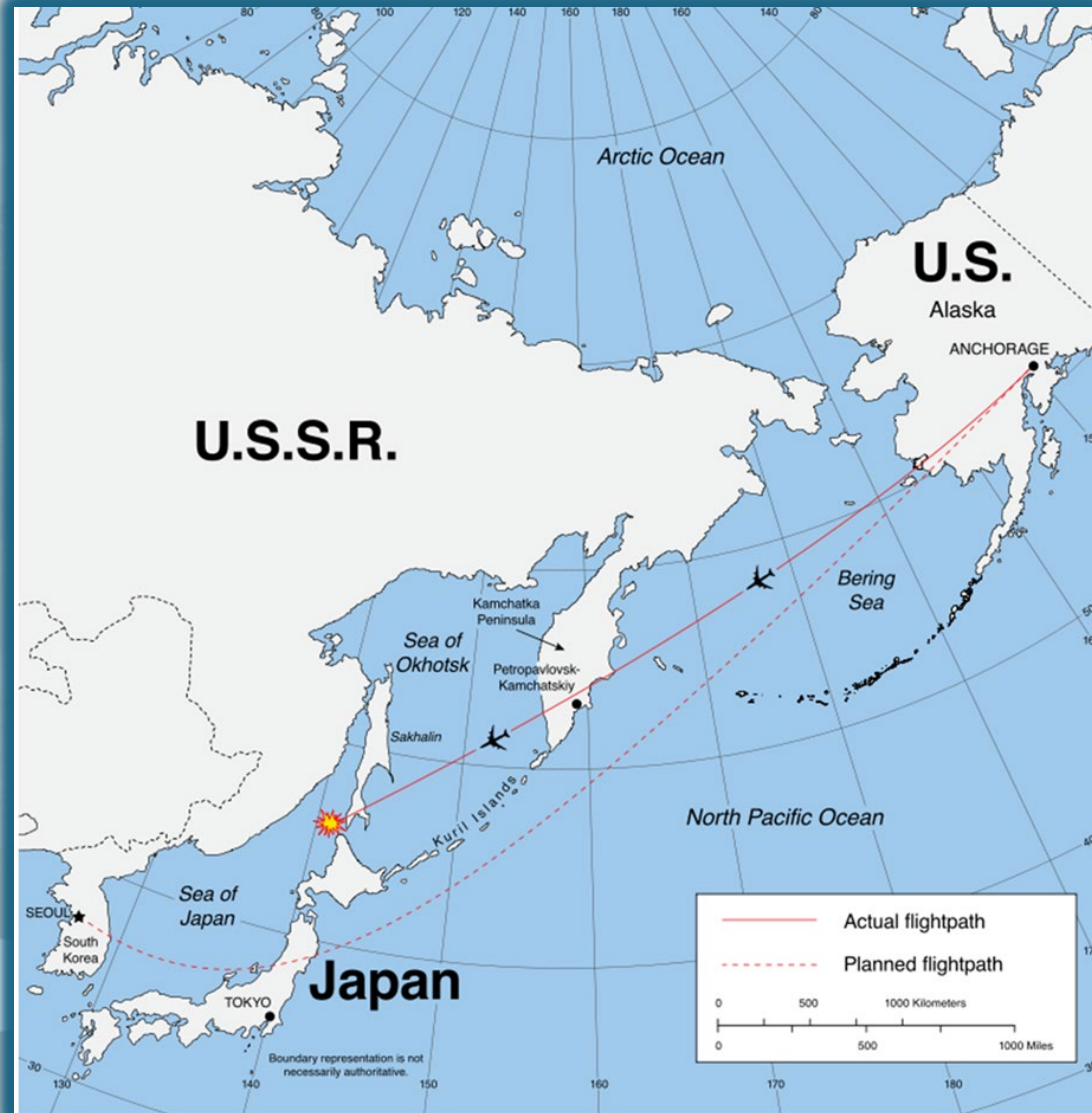
1978 First Block I Navstar satellite launched



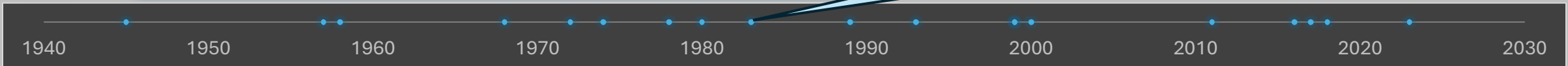
Early 1980's GPS Block I demonstration satellites launched



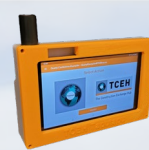
# GNSS History



1983 KAL shot down by Soviets







# GNSS History

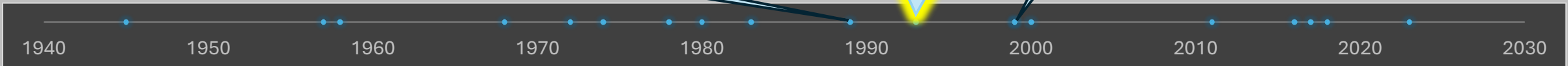


1989 Magellan NAV 1000



1999 Benefon Esc!

1993 GPS constellation achieves full operational capacity







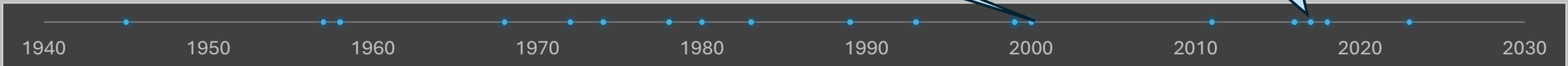
# GNSS History



2000 GPS III development



2018 First GPS III satellite launched



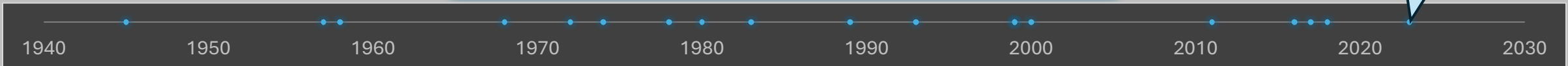




# GNSS History



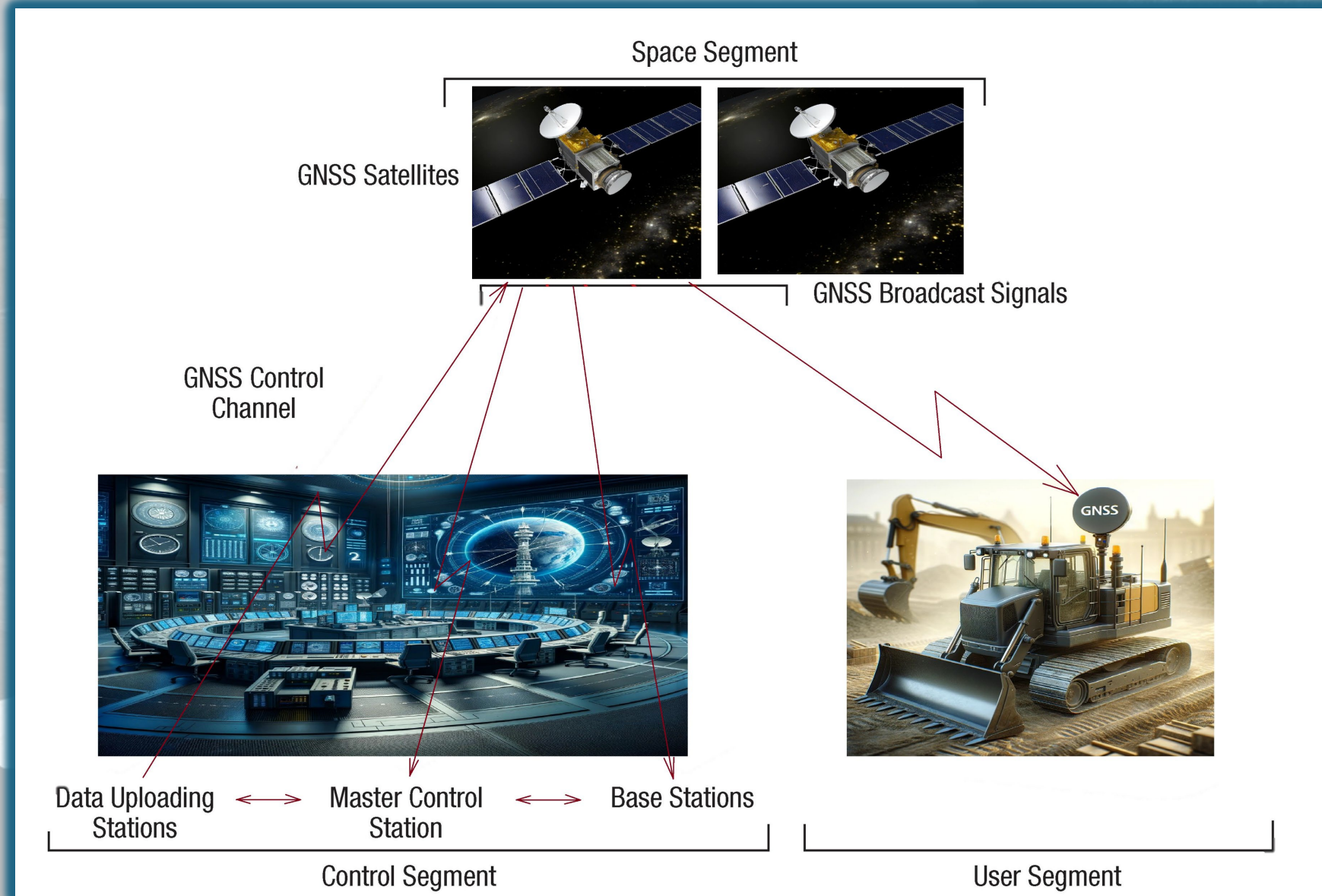
2024 GNSS chips  
miniaturized







# GNSS How it Works





# GNSS How it Works



**Space Segment**





# GNSS How it Works







# GNSS How it Works



**User Segment**





# GNSS How it Works

## Trilateration

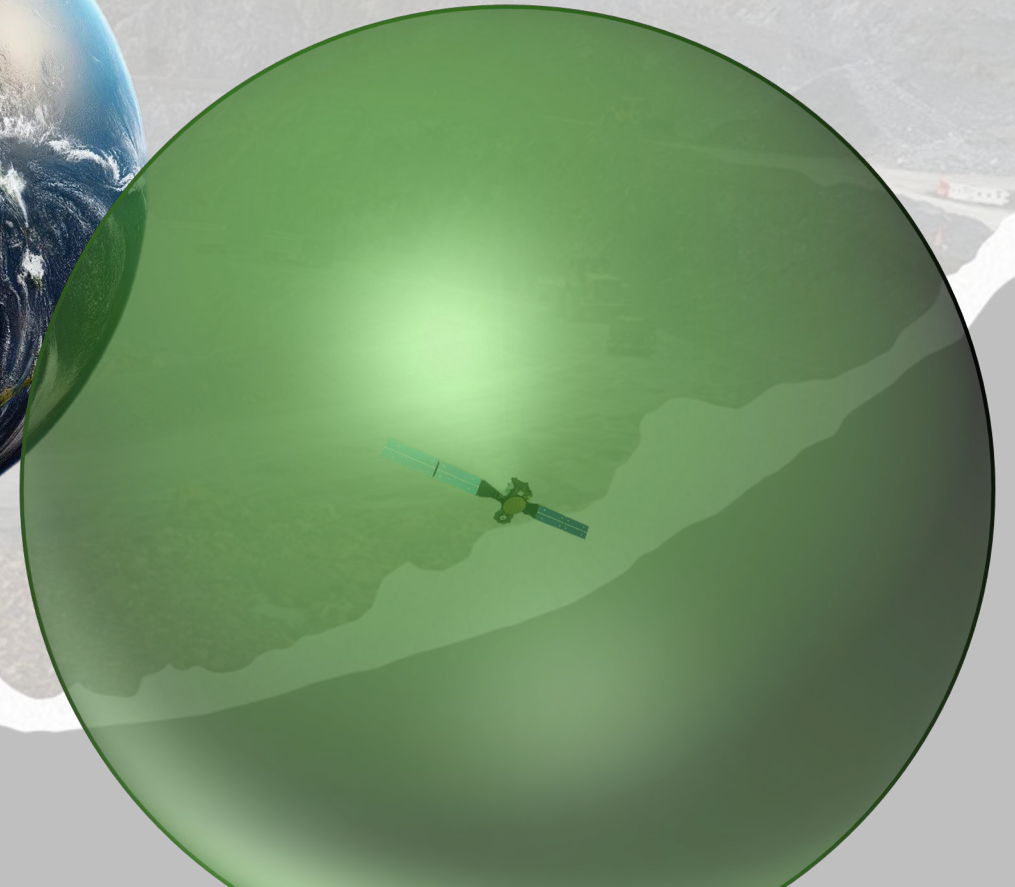


**Measured distance = signal travel time x speed of light**



# GNSS How it Works

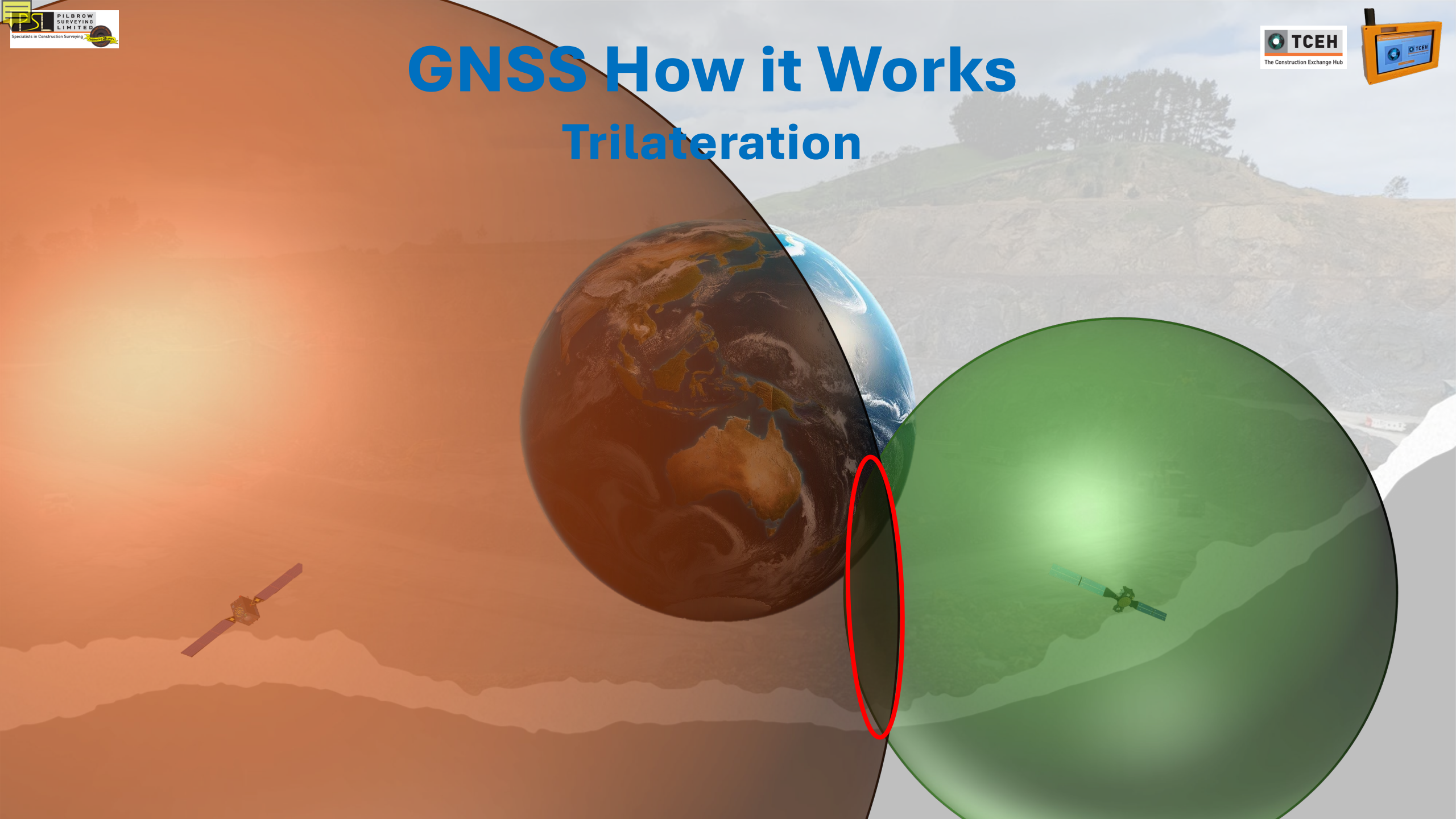
## Trilateration





# GNSS How it Works

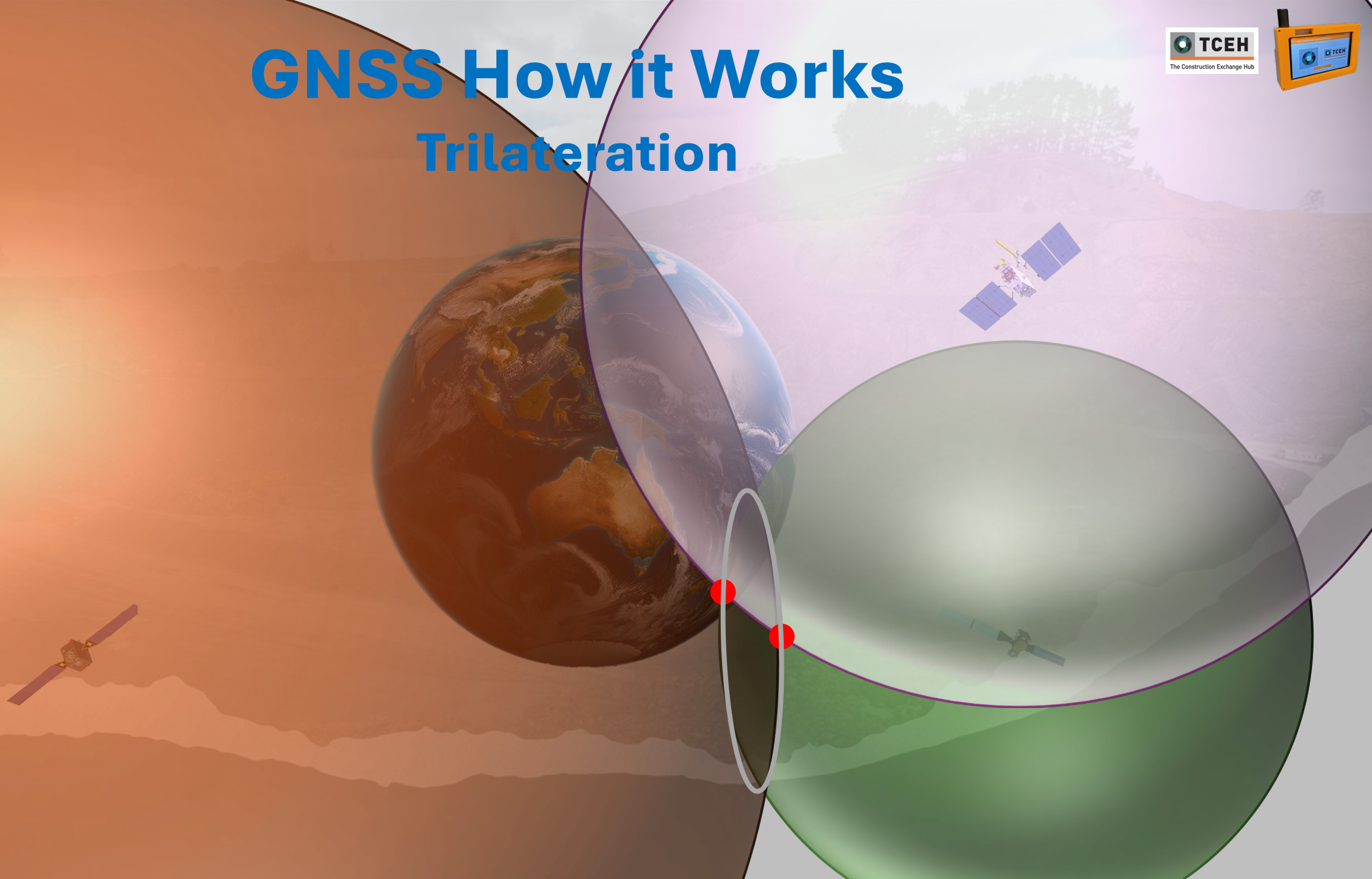
## Trilateration





# GNSS How it Works

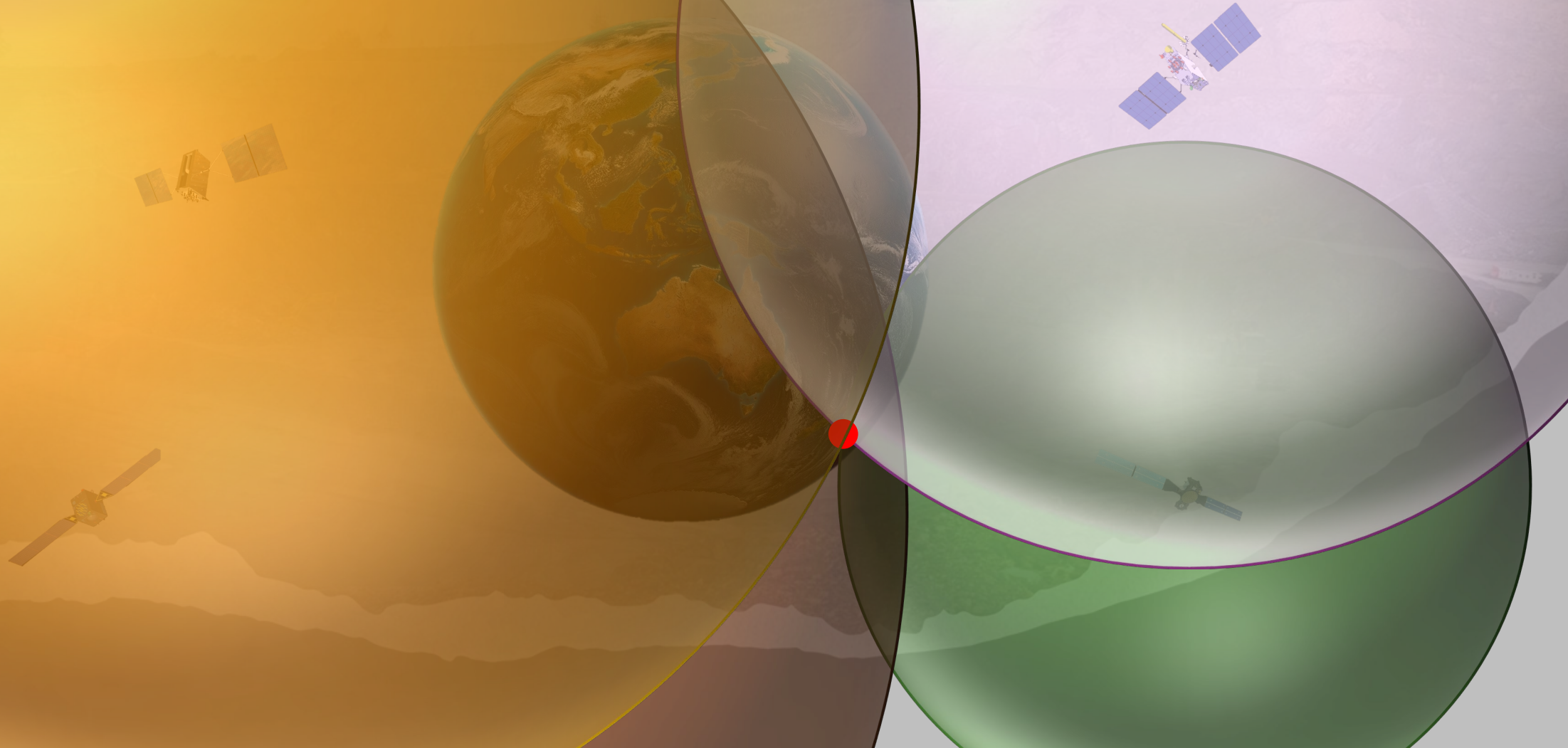
## Trilateration





# GNSS How it Works

## Trilateration





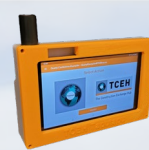


# GNSS How it Works

## Error Sources

Contributing Source	Error Range	AROR
Satellite clocks	±2 m	2.55
Orbit errors	±2.5 m	4.35
Ionospheric delays	±5 m	0.35
Tropospheric delays	±0.5 m	0.35
Receiver noise	±0.3 m	0.55
Multipath	±1 m	0.35
		2.35
		1.0





# GNSS How it Works

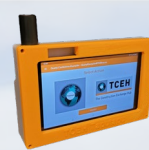
## Error Sources

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Receiver noise	±0.3 m
Multipath	±1 m

### Satellite clocks

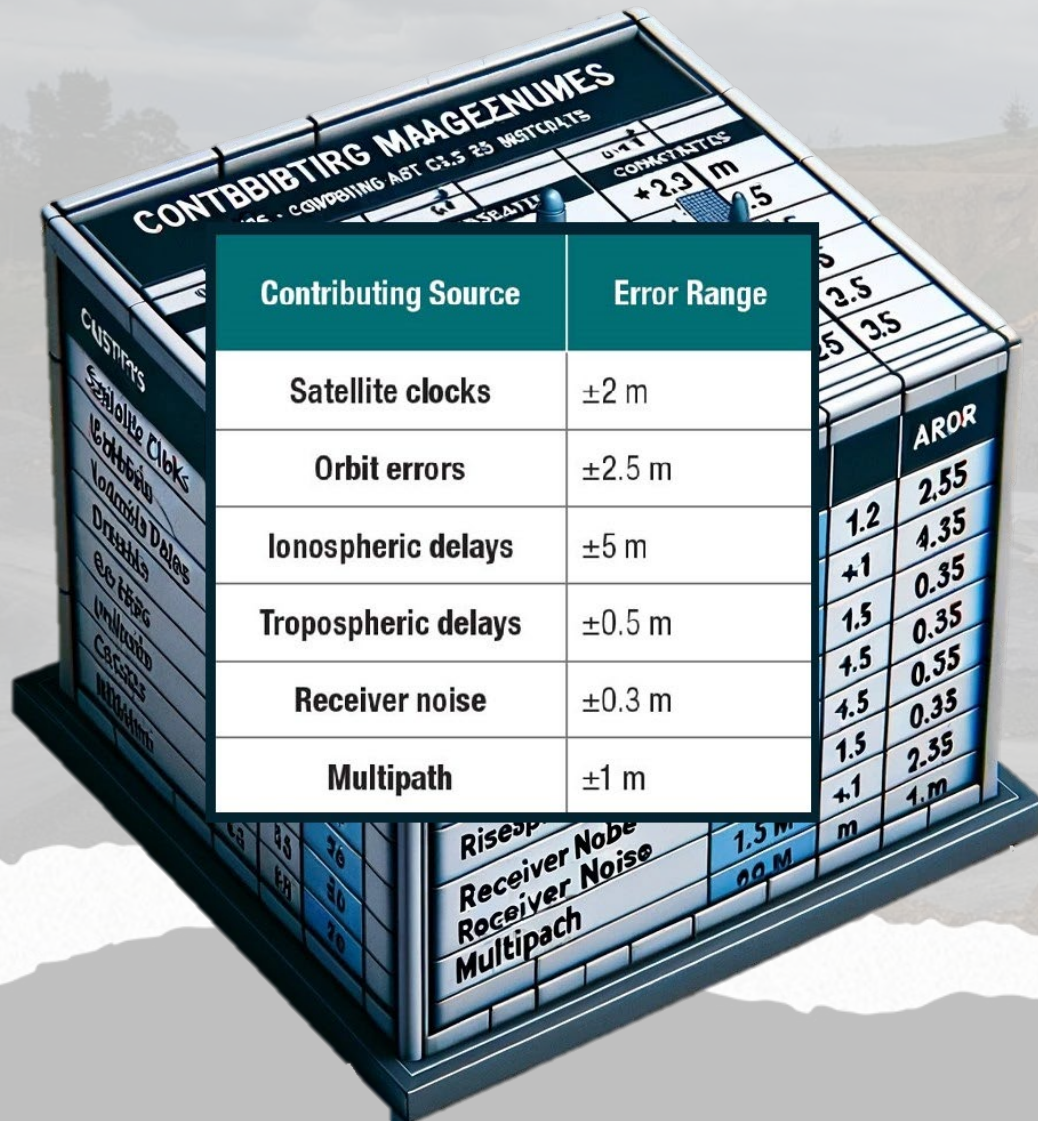
- ❖ Accurate to ±5 parts in 100,000,000,000
- ❖ 10 nanoseconds of time error is 3m of position error
- ❖ Monitored by GNSS Ground Control Segment
- ❖ Provides estimate of clock offset





# GNSS How it Works

## Error Sources

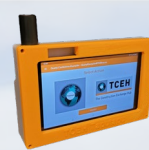


Contributing Source	Error Range
Satellite clocks	±2 m
Orbit errors	±2.5 m
Ionospheric delays	±5 m
Tropospheric delays	±0.5 m
Receiver noise	±0.3 m
Multipath	±1 m

### Orbit errors

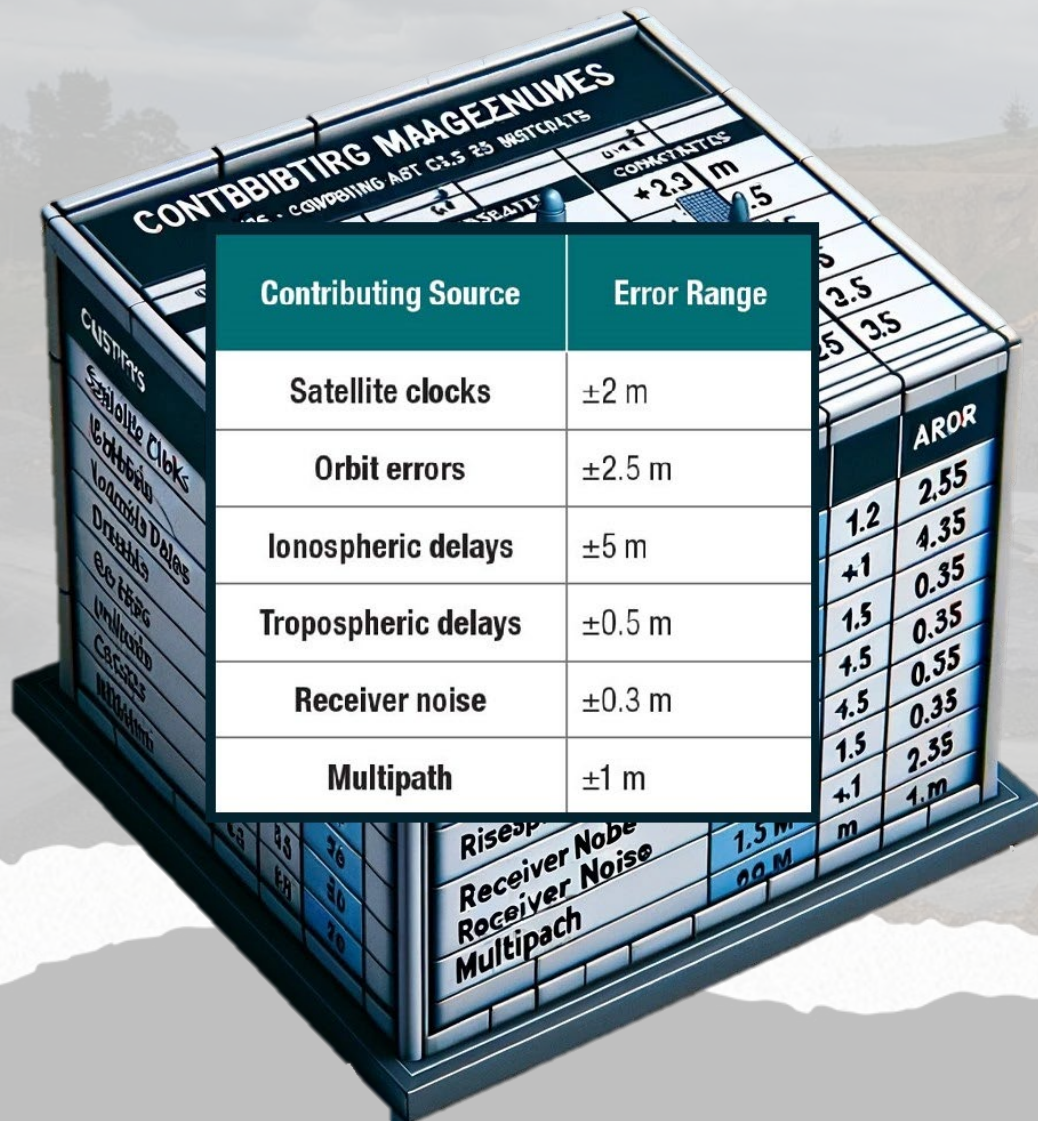
- ❖ Medium earth orbit highly stable and predictable
- ❖ Gravitational effects
- ❖ Pressure of solar radiation
- ❖ Monitored by GNSS Ground Control Segment
- ❖ Corrections made when needed





# GNSS How it Works

## Error Sources

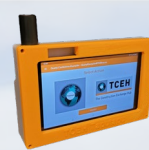


Contributing Source	Error Range
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Orbit errors	±2.5 m
Ionospheric delays	±5 m
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Receiver noise	±0.3 m
Multipath	±1 m

### Ionospheric delays

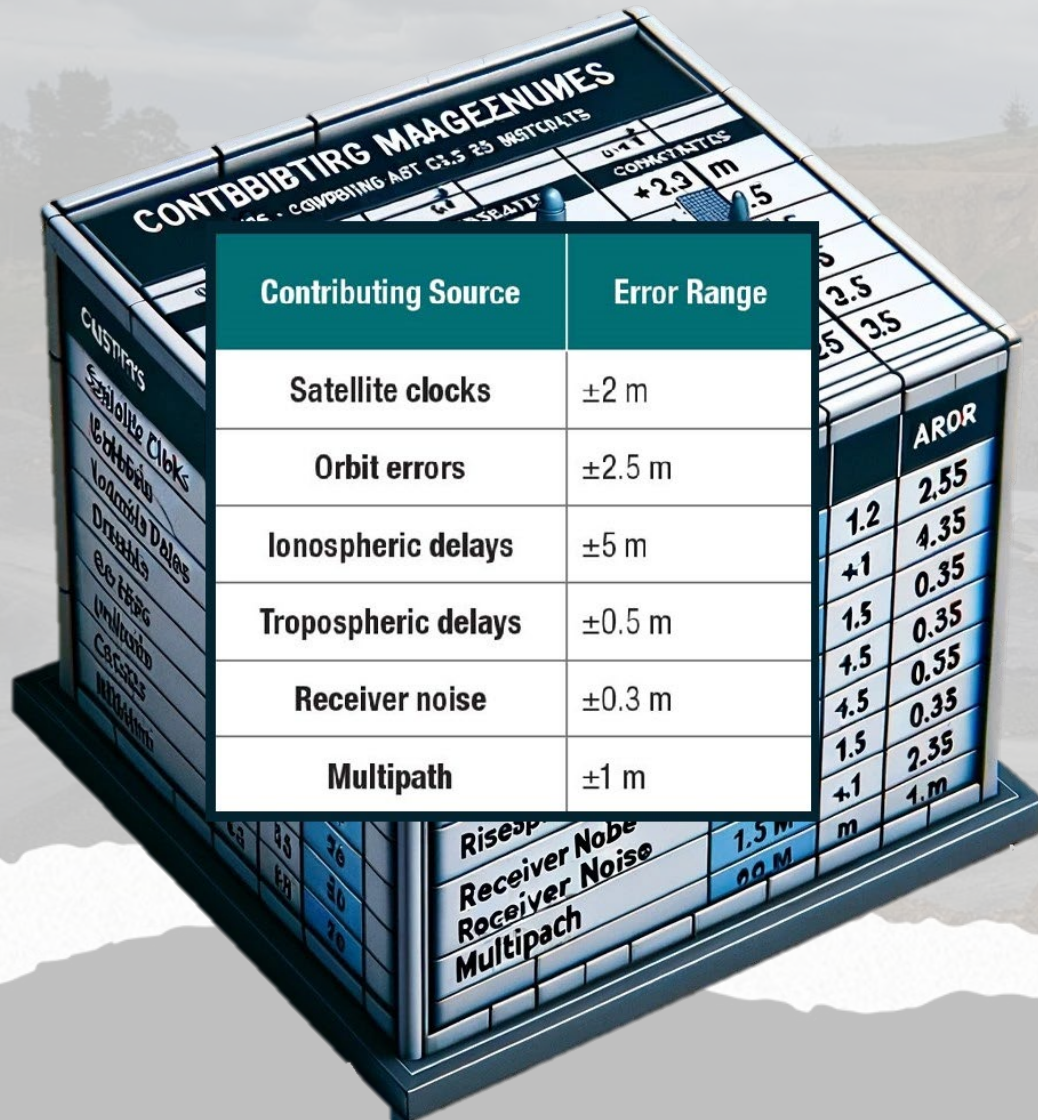
- ❖ Atmosphere between 80km and 600km above the earth
- ❖ Ions delay satellite signals
- ❖ Varies with solar activity, time of year, season, time of day, and location
- ❖ Delay varies with different radio frequency
- ❖ Tracking more than one frequency allows for correction





# GNSS How it Works

## Error Sources

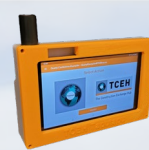


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Satellite clocks	±2 m
Orbit errors	±2.5 m
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Tropospheric delays	±0.5 m
Receiver noise	±0.3 m
Multipath	±1 m

### Tropospheric delays

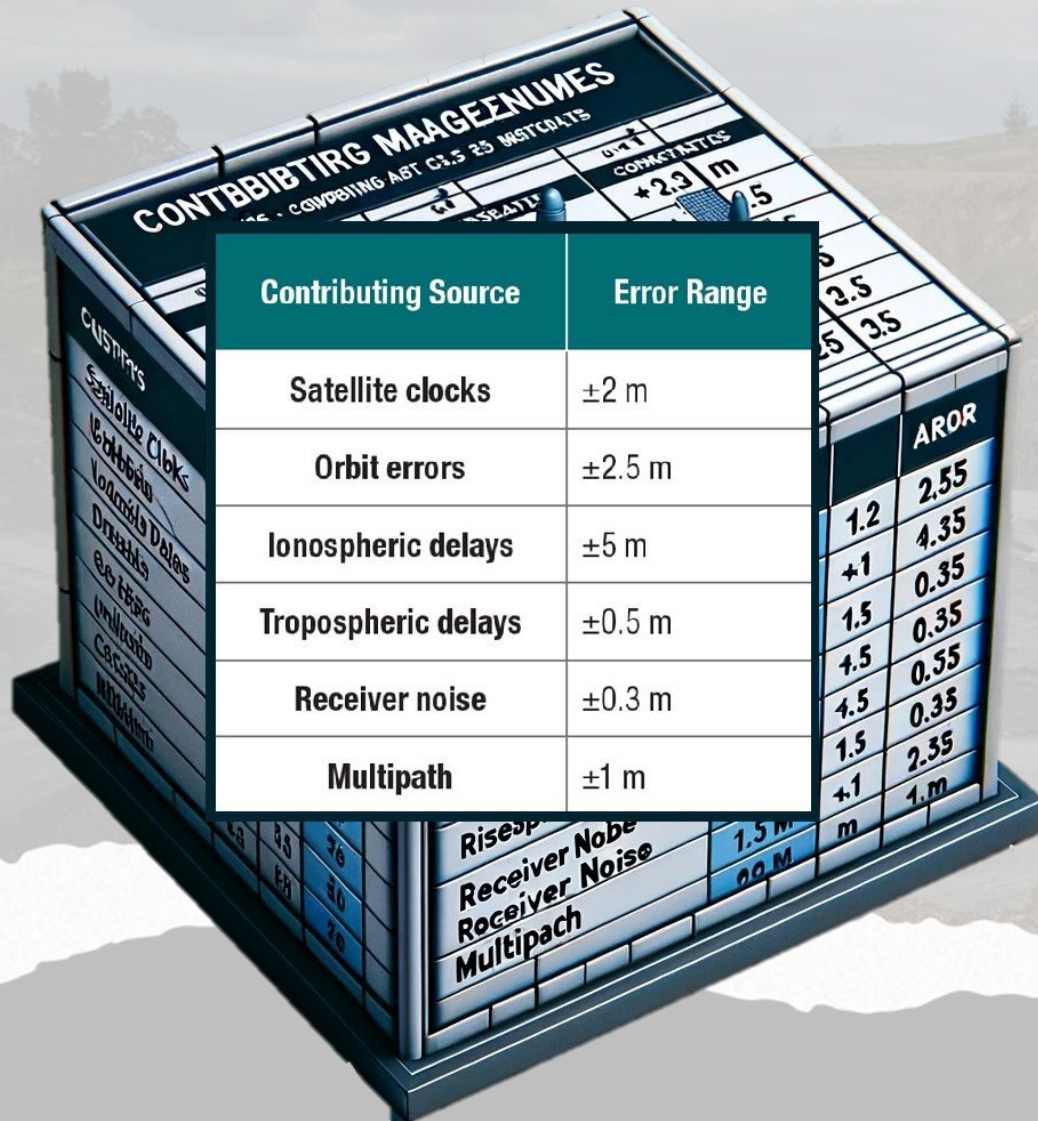
- ❖ Atmosphere closest to the earth's surface
- ❖ Varies with humidity, temperature, atmospheric pressure
- ❖ Conditions are similar within a local area
- ❖ Allows RTK systems to compensate for delay





# GNSS How it Works

## Error Sources

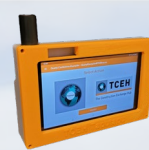


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Satellite clocks	±2 m
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Ionospheric delays	±5 m
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Receiver noise	±0.3 m
Multipath	±1 m

### Receiver noise

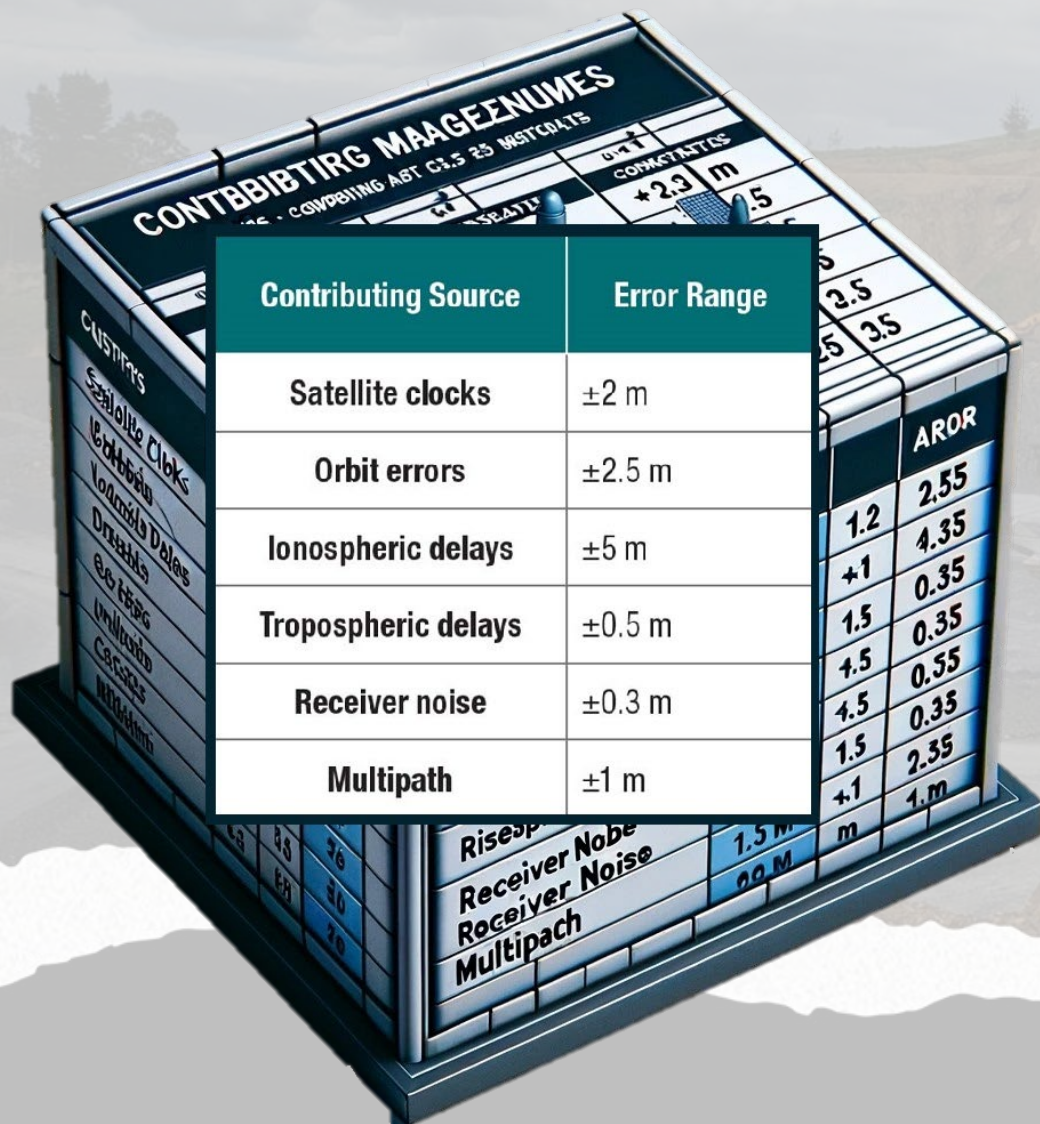
- ❖ Position error caused by GNSS receiver hardware and software
- ❖ High end GNSS less noise
- ❖ Low cost GNSS more noise





# GNSS How it Works

## Error Sources

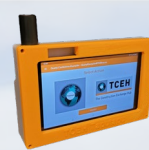


Contributing Source	Error Range
Satellite clocks	±2 m
Orbit errors	±2.5 m
Ionospheric delays	±5 m
Tropospheric delays	±0.5 m
Receiver noise	±0.3 m
Multipath	±1 m

### Multipath

- ❖ Occurs when GNSS signal is reflected off an object
- ❖ Highwalls, structures, buildings, trees can cause multipath
- ❖ Reflected signal delayed causing incorrect position calculation
- ❖ Reduce multipath by keeping antenna away from deflecting surfaces





# GNSS How it Works

## Making it more Accurate

### Code Based Positioning

- ❖ Uses pseudorandom codes
- ❖ 1m to 10 m accuracy



### Carrier Based Ranging

- ❖ Real Time Kinetic (RTK)
- ❖ 1cm to 3 cm accuracy





# GNSS How it Works

## Single Base RTK

### Base Station

- ❖ Location accurately known
- ❖ Receives GNSS signals
- ❖ Determines range errors
- ❖ Transmits corrections



### GNSS Satellite

- ❖ Sends GNSS signals

### Rover

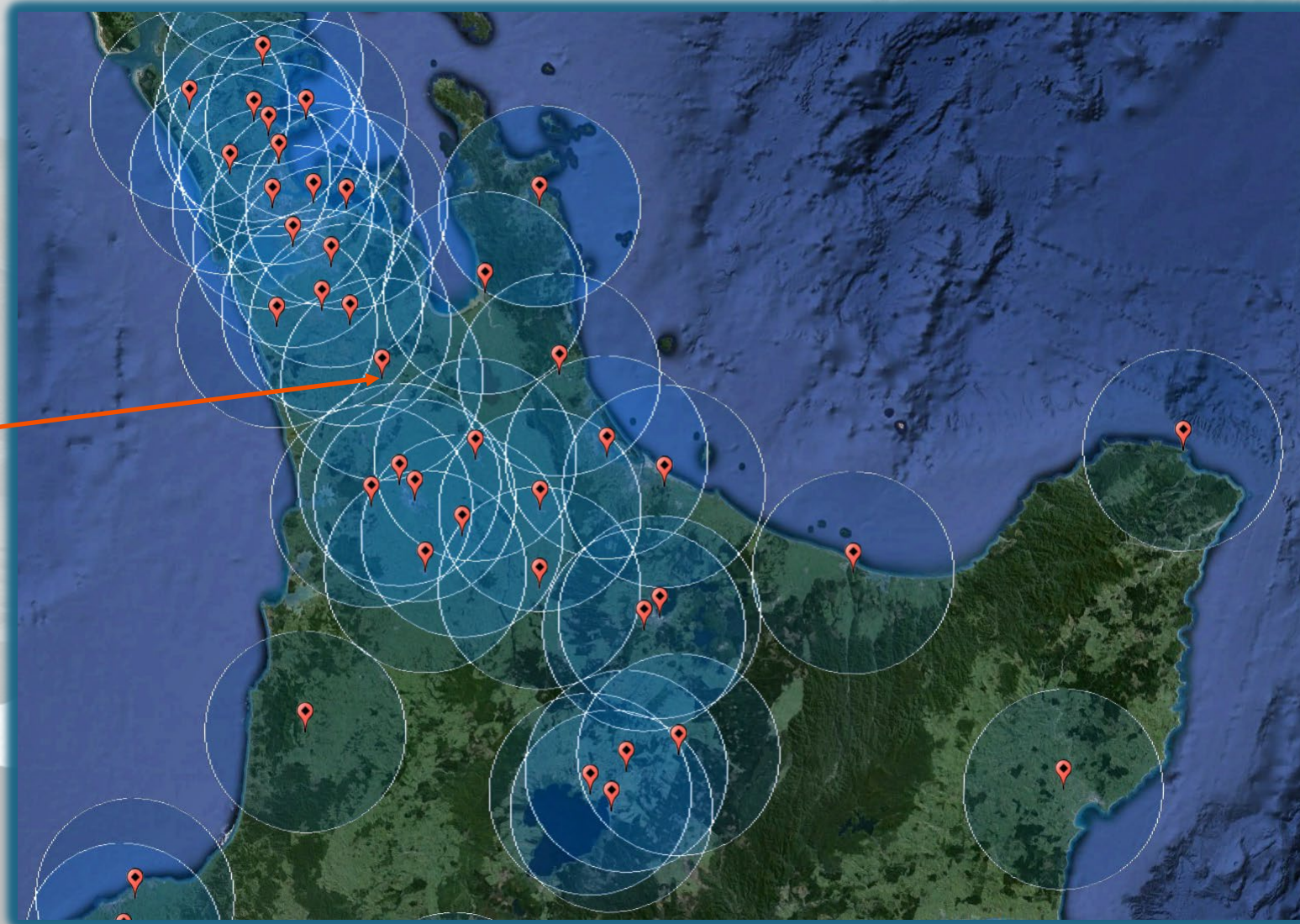
- ❖ Receives GNSS signals
- ❖ Receives corrections
- ❖ Applies corrections
- ❖ Determines position





# GNSS How it Works

## Network RTK







# GNSS How it Works

## RTK Baseline distance error

Single Base RTK: Hz 8 mm + 1 ppm / V 15 mm + 1 ppm

Network RTK: Hz 8mm + 0.5 ppm / V 15 mm + 0.5 ppm





# GNSS How it Works

## RTK Baseline distance error

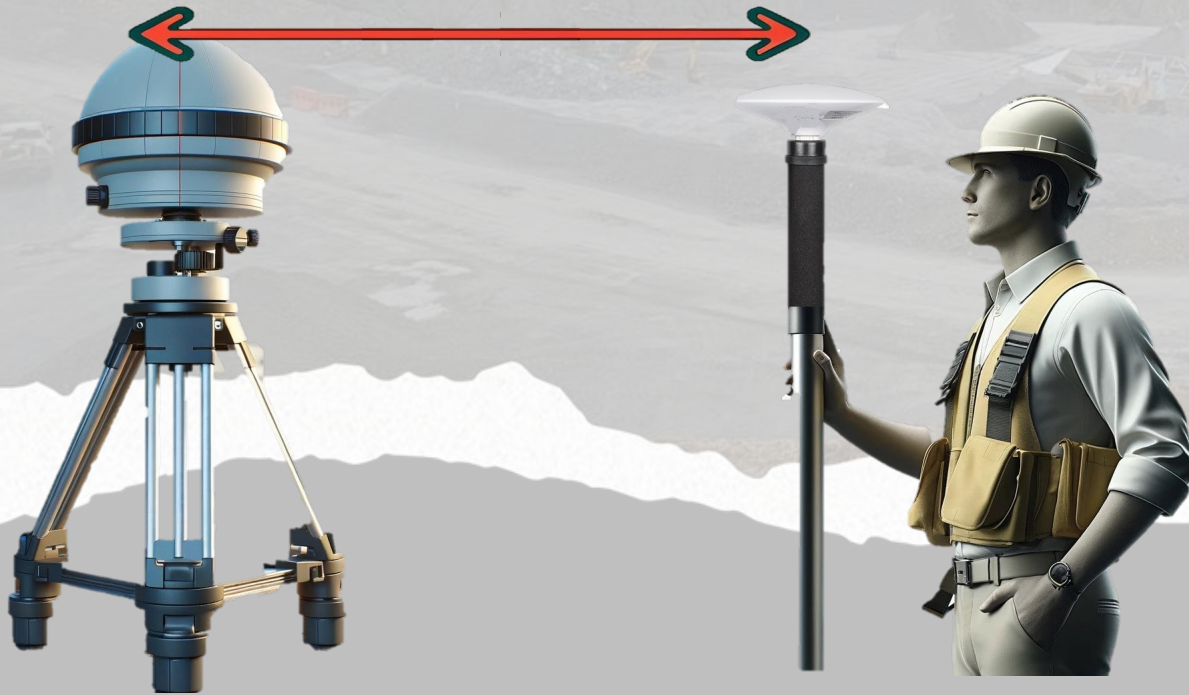
Single Base RTK: Hz 8 mm + 1 ppm / V 15 mm + 1 ppm

Network RTK: Hz 8mm + 0.5 ppm / V 15 mm + 0.5 ppm

### Error at 1km

Single Base RTK: Hz 9 mm / V 16 mm

Network RTK: Hz 8.5mm / V 15.5 mm







# GNSS How it Works

## RTK Baseline distance error

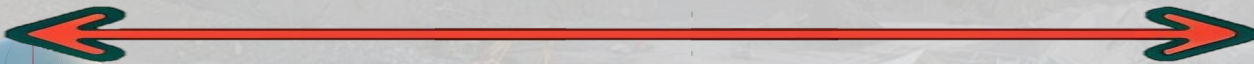
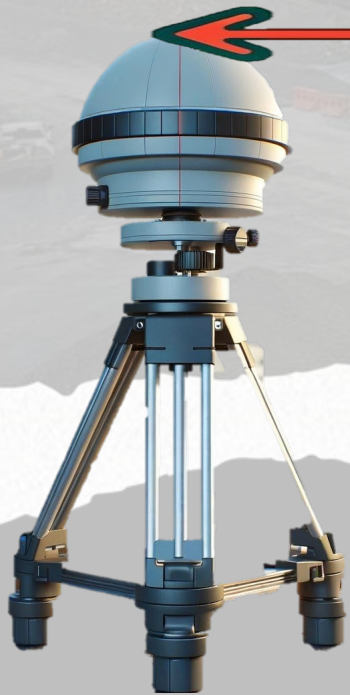
Single Base RTK: Hz 8 mm + 1 ppm / V 15 mm + 1 ppm

Network RTK: Hz 8mm + 0.5 ppm / V 15 mm + 0.5 ppm

Error at 10km

Single Base RTK: Hz 18 mm / V 25 mm

Network RTK: Hz 13mm / V 20 mm







# GNSS How it Works

## RTK Baseline distance error

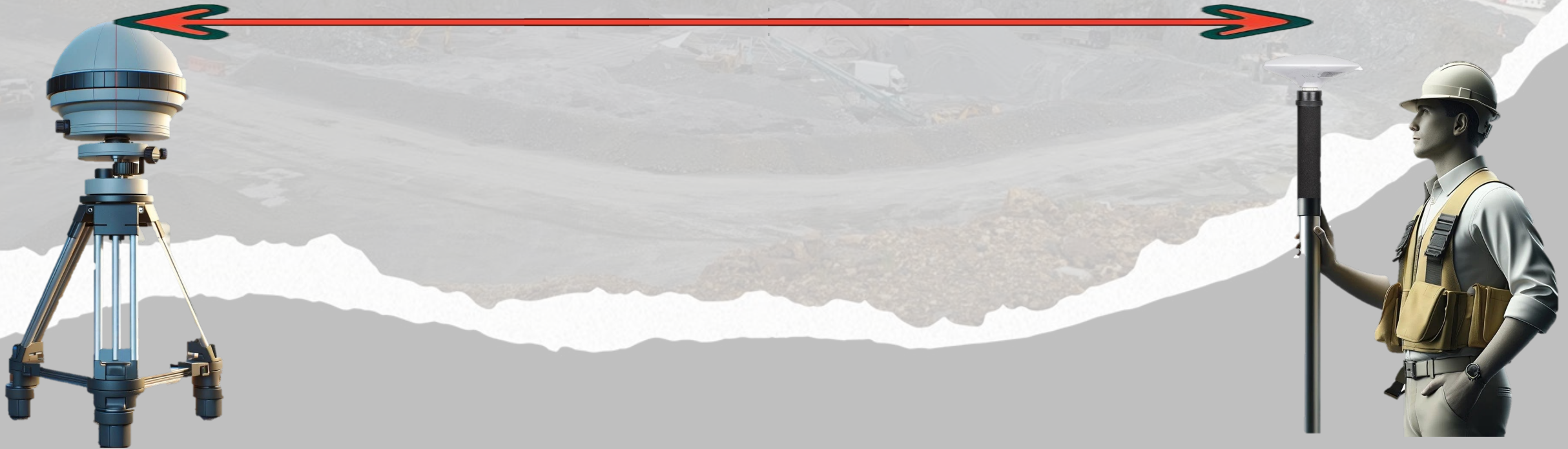
Single Base RTK: Hz 8 mm + 1 ppm / V 15 mm + 1 ppm

Network RTK: Hz 8mm + 0.5 ppm / V 15 mm + 0.5 ppm

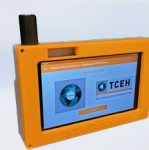
**Error at 30km**

Single Base RTK: Hz 38 mm / V 45 mm

Network RTK: Hz 23mm / V 30 mm







# GNSS How it Works

## RTK Baseline distance error

Single Base RTK: Hz 8 mm + 1 ppm / V 15 mm + 1 ppm

Network RTK: Hz 8mm + 0.5 ppm / V 15 mm + 0.5 ppm

### Error at 30km

Single Base RTK: Hz 38 mm / V 45 mm

Network RTK: Hz 23mm / V 30 mm

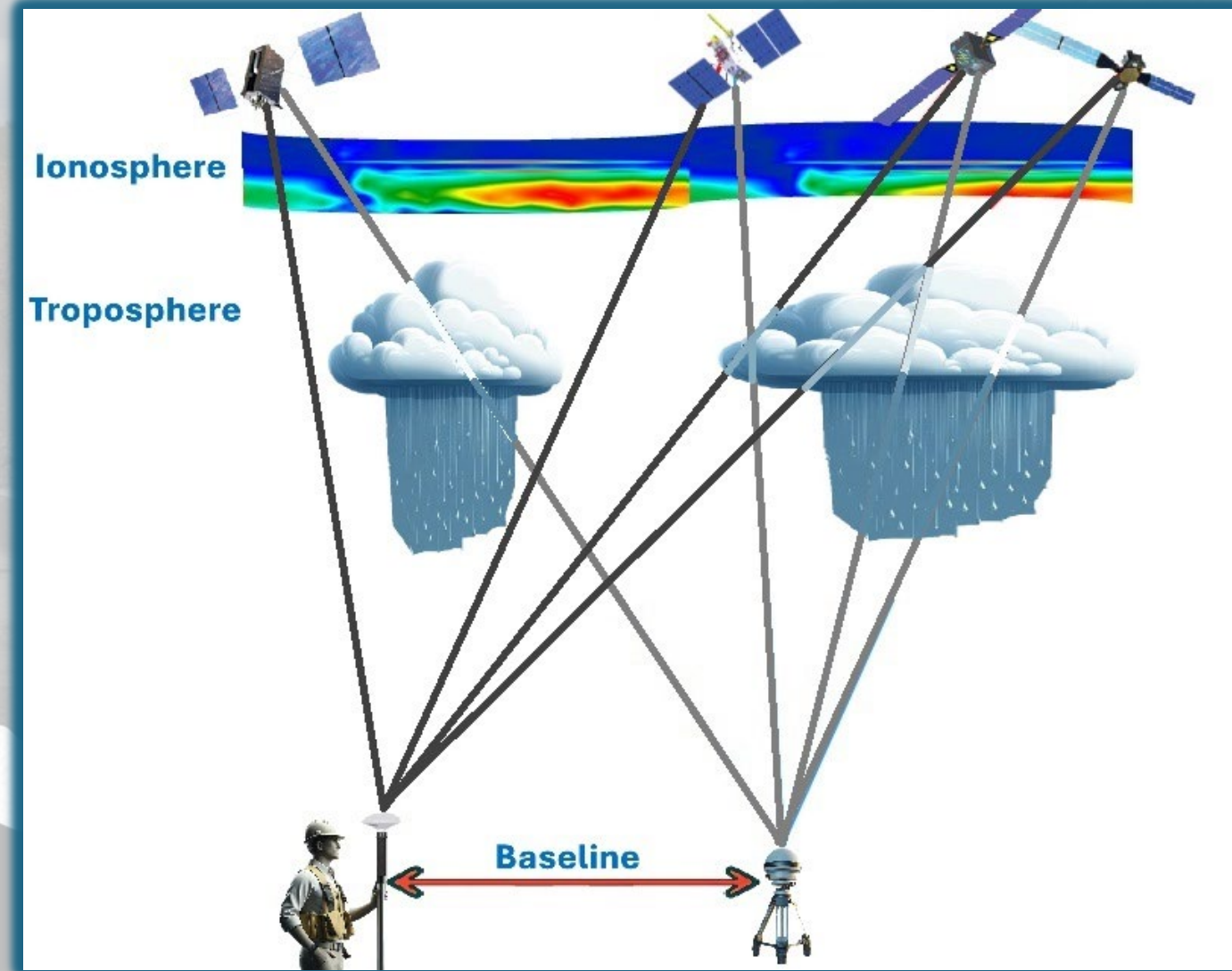






# GNSS How it Works

## RTK Base and Rover Conditions



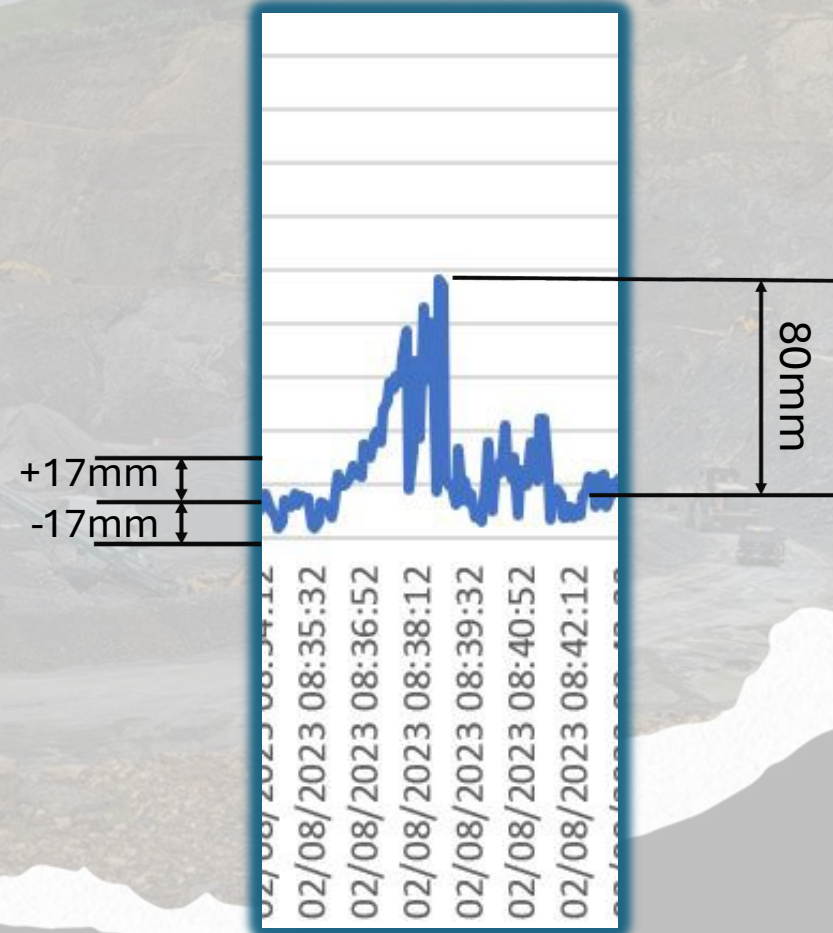




# GNSS How it Works

## RTK Base and Rover Conditions

Network RTK:  
Error at 17km  
Hz 17mm  
V 23 mm

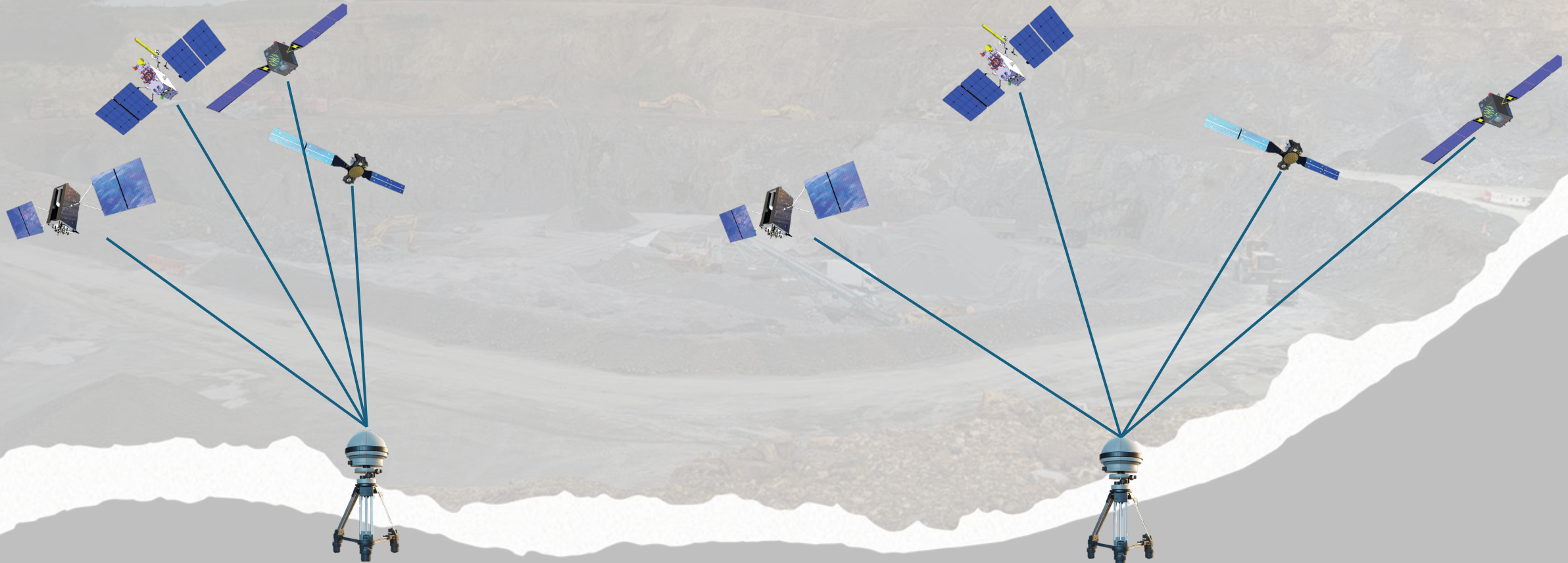






# GNSS How it Works

## Dilution of Precision (DoP)



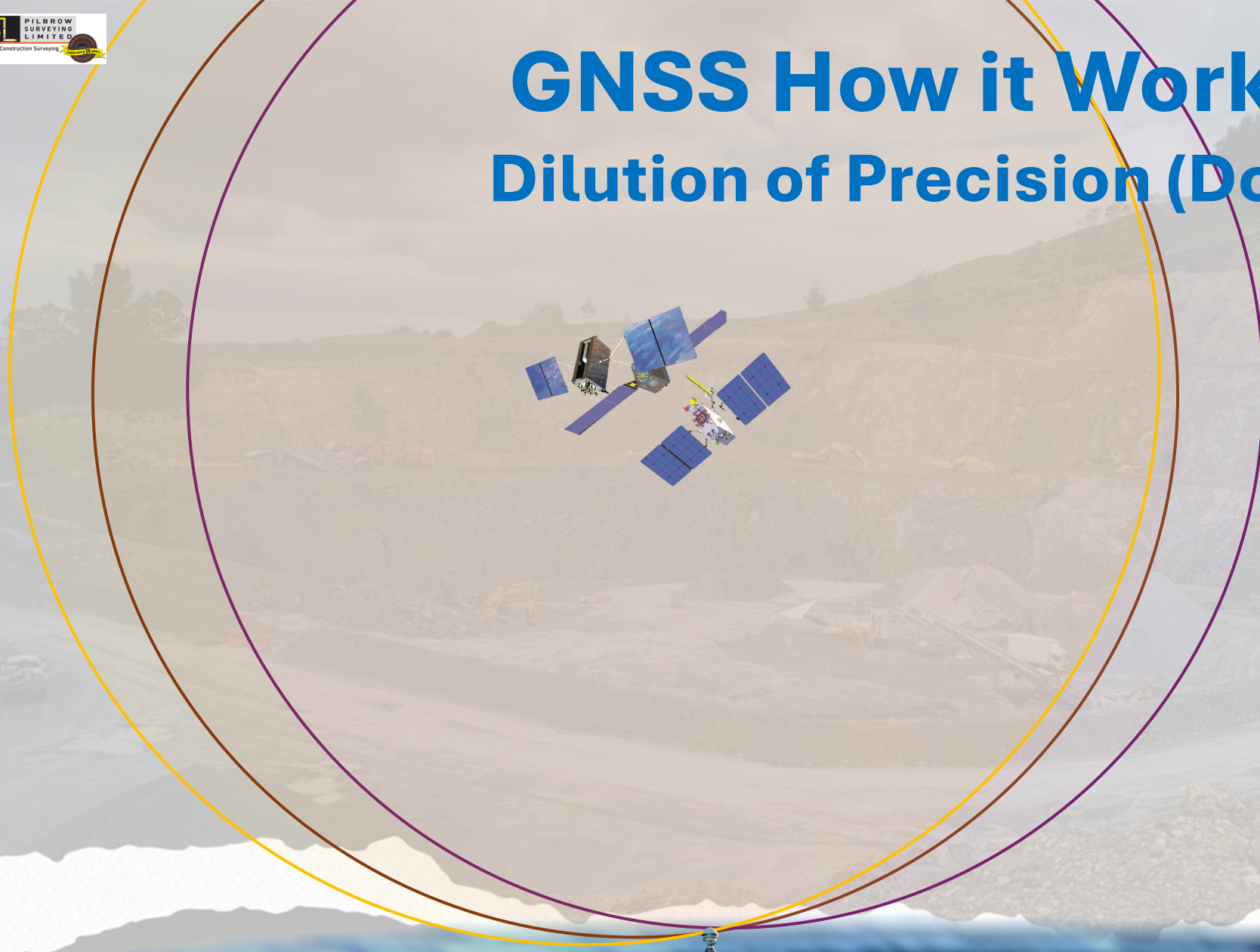
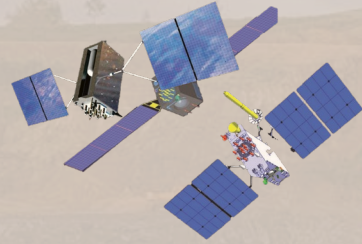
**Bad DoP**

**Good DoP**



# GNSS How it Works

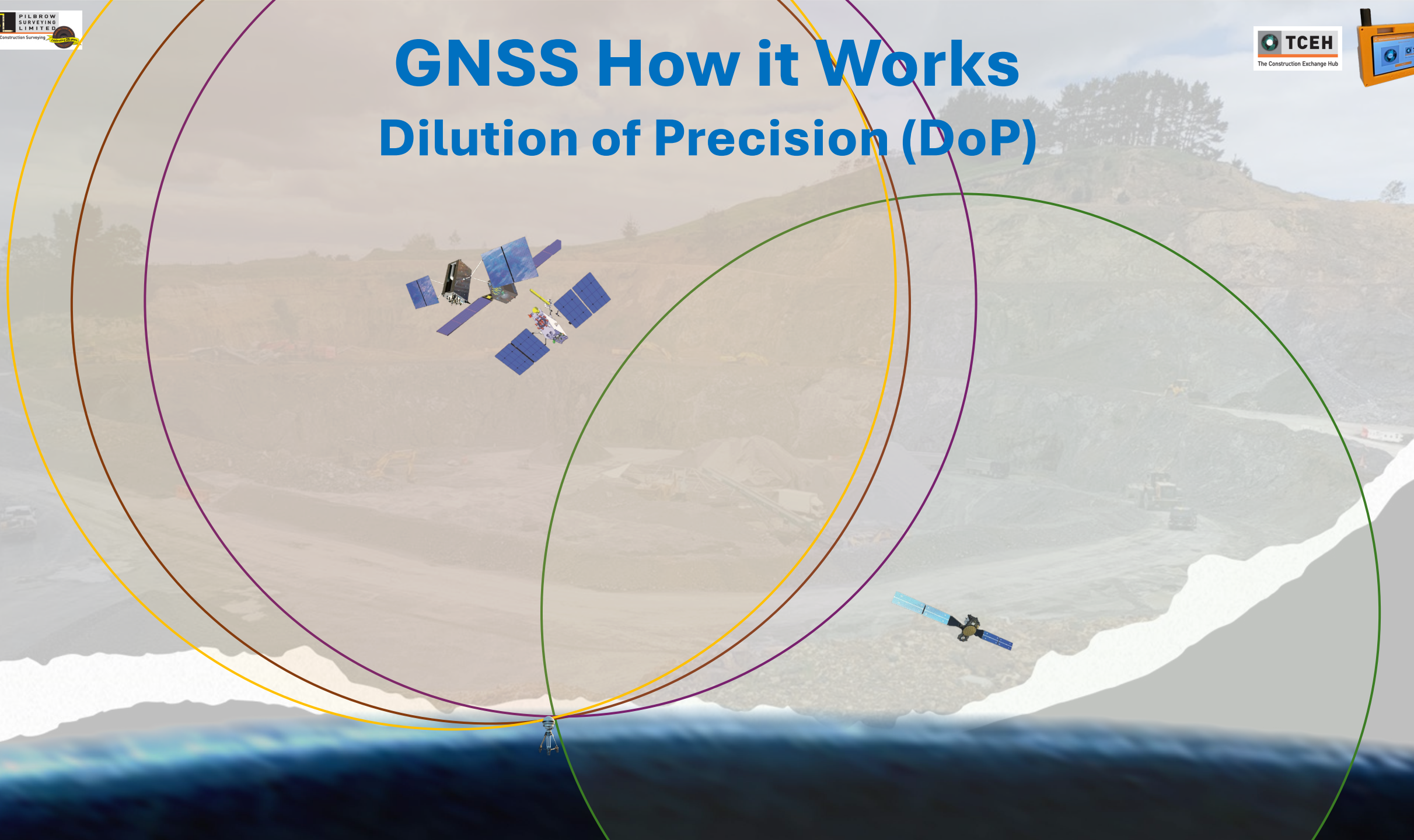
## Dilution of Precision (DoP)





# GNSS How it Works

## Dilution of Precision (DoP)







# GNSS How it Works

## Dilution of Precision (DoP)

DOP value	Rating	Description
<1	Ideal	Highest possible confidence level to be used for applications demanding the highest possible precision at all times.
1–2	Excellent	At this confidence level, positional measurements are considered accurate enough to meet all but the most sensitive applications.
2–5	Good	Represents a level that marks the minimum appropriate for making accurate decisions. Positional measurements could be used to make reliable in-route navigation suggestions to the user.
5–10	Moderate	Positional measurements could be used for calculations, but the fix quality could still be improved. A more open view of the sky is recommended.
10–20	Fair	Represents a low confidence level. Positional measurements should be discarded or used only to indicate a very rough estimate of the current location.
>20	Poor	At this level, measurements should be discarded.





# GNSS How it Works

## Multi-constellation







# GNSS How it Works

## Multi-constellation

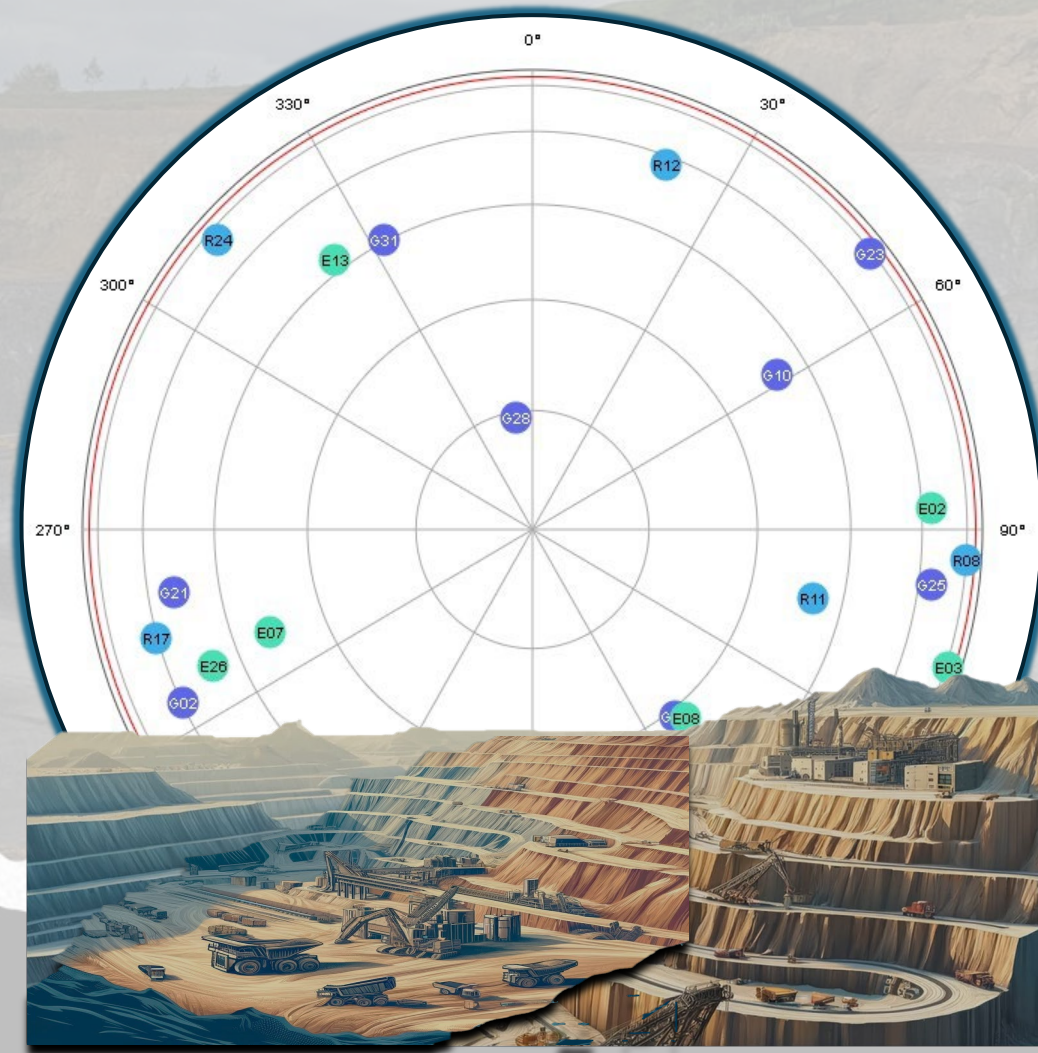






# GNSS How it Works

## Multi-constellation

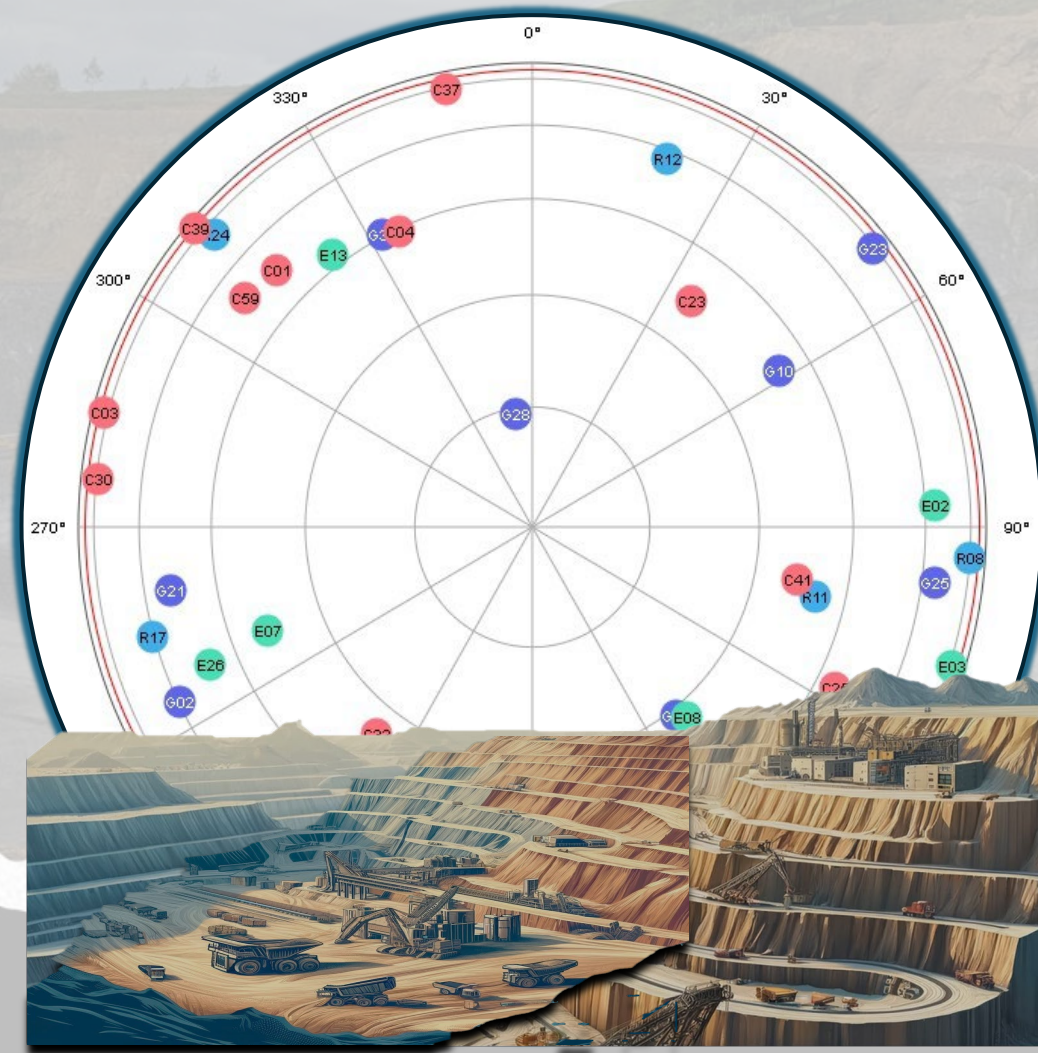






# GNSS How it Works

## Multi-constellation







# GNSS How it Works

## Multi-constellation

- ❖ **Reduces signal acquisition time**
- ❖ **Improved spatial distribution improves DoP**
- ❖ **Reduces problems caused by obstructions**
- ❖ **Deep Pits can still have problems**



# GNSS Applications



## Consumer Grade GNSS

- ❖ Smartphone navigation
- ❖ Location-based search results



## Survey Grade RTK GNSS

- ❖ Topographical surveys
- ❖ Geotechnical locations
- ❖ Setout of works
- ❖ Ground control points
- ❖ As built service locations



# GNSS Applications



## Drilling Rigs

- ❖ Fitted with GNSS
- ❖ Accurate location of drill holes
- ❖ Improved fragmentation
- ❖ Accurate heights better benches



# GNSS Applications



## Diggers

- ❖ Fitted with GNSS
- ❖ Loaded with the design model
- ❖ Quicker and more accurate
- ❖ Reduced mistakes and rework
- ❖ Reduces operating cost





# GNSS Applications



## Real-time Vehicle tracking

- ❖ Gather data about vehicle movements
- ❖ Optimise operation
- ❖ Improve planning
- ❖ Inform decision making
- ❖ Track material for quality control and reporting



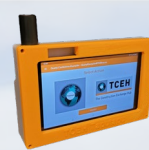
# GNSS Applications



## Real-time Vehicle tracking

- ❖ Assess compliance to procedures
- ❖ Manage fuel use and tyre wear
- ❖ Track servicing schedules
- ❖ Improve safety
- ❖ Improve security





# Quarrying in the Future

## The Quarry of the Future



### The Quarry of the Future

- ❖ Centralised Control Centre
- ❖ Fully autonomous machinery
- ❖ Automatic drone surveys
- ❖ GNSS reliant
- ❖ Highly efficient
- ❖ Precisely to design
- ❖ Unmatched safety
- ❖ Volumetric analysis





# Quarrying in the Future

## The Quarry of the Future



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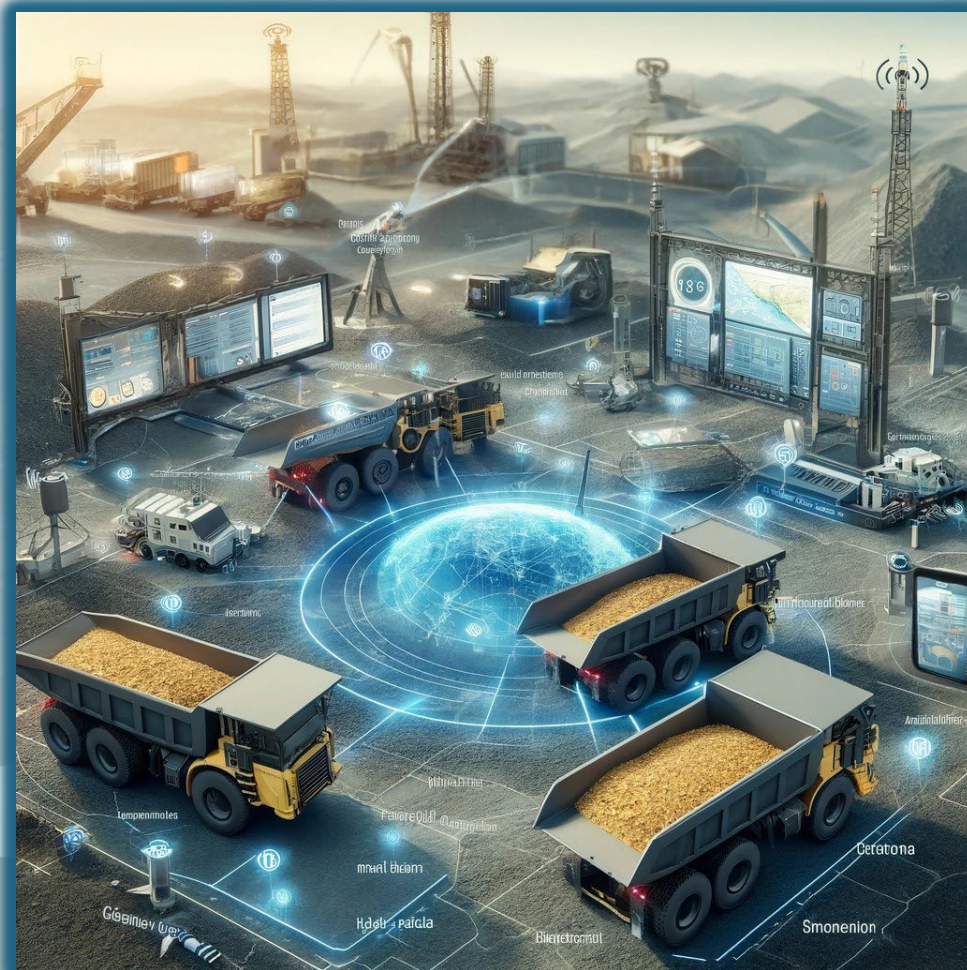
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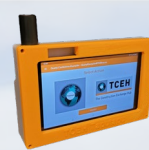
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# Quarrying in the Future

## The Quarry of the Future – Here Now?







# Quarrying in the Future

## The Quarry of the Future – Here Now?







# Quarrying in the Future

## The Quarry of the Future – Here Now?







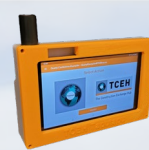
# Quarrying in the Future

## The Quarry of the Future – Here Now?



This work presents the first



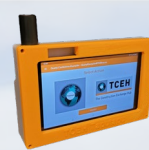


# Quarrying in the Future

## The Quarry Worker of the Future?





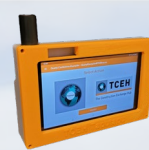


# Quarrying in the Future

## The Quarry Worker of the Future?







# The Future is Digital

## GNSS pivotal to Navigating Shifts in Technology







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## GNSS pivotal to Navigating Shifts in Technology



**Questions?**