The ArabRef project
a new geodetic network for Arabia

Nasr A. AL-SAHHAF (Saudi Arabia)
Rui M. S. FERNANDES (Portugal)
Sami ALHUMAIDI (Saudi Arabia)

Summary

- What is ArabRef?
- Goals
- Current Status and Planned Stations
- Future Plans
ArabRef

KACST (King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology), as a major research center in Saudi Arabia, decided to promote the implementation of a fiducial reference network that intends to serve the entire Arabian Peninsula by creating a modern and consistent reference frame based on Space-Geodesy techniques.

This project, called ArabRef (Arabian Reference Frame), and is due to start this year.

Goals

• Geodetic infrastructure for regional and multinational technical and scientific projects:
  • Three-dimensional positioning,
  • Geodynamics,
  • Ionospheric and Tropospheric research.

• Unification of existing multiple datums in the region.

• Once established, it will lead to the realization of a Fundamental Geodetic International Station (GNSS, Galileo, SLR and DORIS)
Current Status and Planned Stations

Future Plans

- Expand the project into several phases to establish a network of about 60 stations to achieve RTK capability

- Provide local and international institutions with highly accurate data for scientific research

- Once concluded, it will be part of SGC – Space Geodetic Center