

Contact and Agency Information in M³G

<https://gnss-metadata.eu/>

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Terminology

In M³G, an agency can act as:

Station Owner (also called **Responsible Agency**): The Station Owner owns the GNSS equipment of a GNSS tracking station and has the right to stop its operations.

Data Supplier (only for EPOS stations): The EPOS Data Supplier is the legal contact of the GNSS tracking station w.r.t. EPOS. It has the legal rights to distribute the GNSS data of the tracking station to a third party through EPOS. Therefore, Data Supplier signs the EPOS Data Supplier Letter and indicates for each station individually which Operational Centre (see below) will be responsible to maintain the GNSS station metadata in M³G.

Mostly, the Station Owner acts as Data supplier. If this is not the case, EPOS supposes the existence of an agreement between both to assure that the agency acting as Data Supplier has the rights to sign the EPOS Data Supplier Letter on behalf of the agency of the Station Owner.

Operational Centre (OC): The Operational Centre maintains the GNSS station metadata (e.g. site log, antenna calibrations, site pictures,...). For that purpose, it has a dedicated login within M³G. The OC is also responsible for the GNSS data upload to the agreed-upon data centre.

Mostly, the Station Owner acts as Operational Centre. If this is not the case, EPOS supposes the existence of an agreement between both to assure that the agency acting as Operational Centre has the rights to act in EPOS on behalf of the agency of the Station Owner .

On-site Point of Contact: The local point of contact at a GNSS tracking station.

One agency can fulfill all the roles above, or the roles can be distributed amongst different agencies.

International GNSS Networks supported by M³G

Through M³G, an Operational Centre maintains on-line the GNSS station metadata for stations contributing to the EPOS, EPN, or EPN densification networks. A station can belong to the following networks:

- EPOS
- EPN
- EPN densification
- EPOS and EPN
- EPOS and EPN densification

Prior to uploading any metadata for a station belonging to the EPOS network, M³G must have in its possession a completed and signed EPOS-GNSS Supplier Letter from the Data Supplier, which includes the information on the Operational Centre responsible for maintaining the station metadata in M³G. This Operational Centre will then receive a login account on the M³G web site.

For stations only included in the EPN or EPN-densification networks, there is no need to provide an EPOS-GNSS Supplier Letter and all EPN Operational Centers will be invited, one at the time, to switch from the present EPN CB on-line site log submission system to M³G.

The agency information is organized in M³G as follows:

1) Operational Center

is inserted in

- M³G Operational Center (OC) on-line form, which indicates for each station the agency (and persons) responsible for submitting/updating station metadata using the M³G station metadata form.
- M³G Station Metadata on-line form, which requires that the name of the person in the "Prepared by" field is selected from one of the contacts filled in the OC.

and exported to

- Site log: in the field "Prepared by" in "Section 0".
- GeodesyML: in the field "Prepared by" and the field "siteMetaDataCustodian" (with the agency information coming from the OC form and the contact information coming from "Prepared by" in the station metadata form).

2) Station Owner

is inserted in

- M³G Station Metadata on-line form: in the fields "Responsible agency". These fields are mandatory. For stations where the OC is also the Station Owner, the "Responsible agency" should correspond to the agency inserted in the on-line M³G Operational Center (OC) form. If the OC is maintaining station metadata on behalf of the Station Owner, then "Responsible agency" (and contact persons) will be independent of the agency information given in OC form.

and exported to

- Site log
 - o If "On-site Point of Contact" (below) is empty in M³G, then the Station Owner info will be in "Section 11: On-site, point of ..." (*just to follow IGS conventions*)
 - o If "On-site Point of contact" (below) is not empty in M³G, then the Station Owner info will be in "Section 12: Responsible Agency"
- GeodesyML: in the field "siteOwner".

3) On-site Point of Contact

inserted in

- M³G Station Metadata on-line form, which indicates this information in the "On-site point of contact" fields. M³G does not impose that this information is completed.

and exported to

- Site log: in the "Section 11: One-site point of contact" (if empty in M³G, then the info from "Responsible Agency" will be inserted instead in site log) (*just to follow IGS conventions*)
- GeodesyML: in the field "siteContact".