

# Satisfied with Topcon's GPS+ receivers for GIS applications



TOPCON  
**AT WORK**

*"It is easy for any member of our team to handle the GPS"*

*"We locate more than 5000 manholes in Barcelona"*

EMSSA is a public company belonging to the Entidad Metropolitana de Servicios Hidráulicos (Metropolitan Entity of Hydraulic Services) whose object it is to manage services relating to treatment, disposal and sanitation of water in the metropolitan region of Barcelona.

Some time ago, EMSSA purchased a MapR-model Topcon GPS receiver with the capability of receiving Omnistar corrections with an annual license to be able to achieve sub-meter accuracy. The equipment was complemented by an FC-100-model Topcon controller with the TopSURV GIS program. "The main purpose of this equipment is to locate and take the coordinates for more than 5000 manholes managed by EMSSA in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. Sometimes the manholes are hidden in riverbeds between bushes and streams and the system enables us to locate them quickly, take their position and then download the data into the computer."

EMSSA is currently evaluating the ArcGIS software of ESRI on a trial period, and has downloaded the data collected with the Topcon GPS to manage them in the Geographical Information System. EMSSA's accuracy requirements for this work are set at sub-meter level for planimetry. Topcon therefore recommended the use of differential corrections by Omnistar satellite with a renewable annual service license.

Here are some of the comments from EMSSA staff using the Topcon system:

In relation to the increase in productivity: "Previously, the manholes were located manually; a map was used to find the point more or less quickly depending on how visible it was; sometimes valuable time was wasted finding the manhole. Now the location and taking of coordinates is much quicker using the GPS." In relation to the ease of use: "It is very simple to use; in fact, all of the inspectors familiarized themselves with the device and the TopSURV software in a matter of minutes, which makes it easy for any member of our team to handle the GPS." Also in relation to Inland's support service, EMSSA's staff commented: "On one occasion we had a radio reception problem; we informed Inland and in a few hours they had pinpointed the problem and solved it for us, so we could carry on working."



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