

## The Argos System: The Mission Continues

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The Argos System is the satellite telemetry system of choice for biologists worldwide. Although Argos focused initially on providing in-situ data from the earth's oceans and atmosphere, this now 30-year-old system was discovered by the biological community in the early to mid 1980's. In fact, species monitoring and Argos technology have grown together. The demands of collecting sensor data and locating birds and animals in wide-ranging, and remote and hostile environments have continuously pushed Argos to improve the on-board and ground based systems to satisfy these needs. Today, biology applications are the fastest growing of all the monitoring and protection programs in the Argos System. System enhancements have provided a number of advantages to biologists, such as increased sensitivity, improved location calculation, new low-power modulation, and broadening of the bandwidth. Future enhancements will include further increased sensitivity, even more bandwidth, and the possibility of specifying a dedicated area of the spectrum for low-power transmitters. A downlink capability has also been added to allow users to turn transmitters on/off, download orbital parameters, or modify the characteristics of the sensors or transmitter. All of these improvements benefit those involved in wildlife management.