

FEMA Task Order Number HSFE05-14-J-0037
STARR Project Number 400000254
Woolpert Project #74908

FEMA STARR Ashland County Wisconsin Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) September 2015

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Section 1: Overview

Project Name: FEMA STARR ASHLAND COUNTY WISCONSIN LIDAR

Woolpert Project: #74908

This report contains a comprehensive outline of the FEMA STARR Ashland County Lidar task order. This task is issued under FEMA Task Order Number: HSFE05-14-J-0037, and STARR Project Number: 400000254. This task order requires lidar data to be acquired over Ashland County, Wisconsin. The total area of the Ashland County Lidar AOI is approximately 1,011 square miles. The lidar was collected and processed to meet a maximum Nominal Post Spacing (NPS) of 1 meter. The NPS assessment is made against single swath, first return data located within the geometrically usable center portion (typically ~90%) of each swath.

The data was collected using a Leica ALS70 500 kHz Multiple Pulses in Air (MPiA) lidar sensor. The ALS70 sensor collects up to four returns per pulse, as well as intensity data, for the first three returns. If a fourth return was captured, the system does not record an associated intensity value. The aerial lidar was collected at the following sensor specifications:

Table 1.1:

Sensor Specifications	
Post Spacing	3.3 ft / 1 m
AGL (Above Ground Level) average flying height	7,800 ft / 2,377 m
MSL (Mean Sea Level) average flying height	variable
Average Ground Speed:	150 knots / 173 mph
Field of View (full)	40 degrees
Pulse Rate	230 kHz
Scan Rate	34.4 Hz
Side Lap	25%

The lidar data was processed and projected in UTM, Zone 15, North American Datum of 1983 (2011) in units of meters. The vertical datum used for the task order was referenced to NAVD 1988, GEOID12A, in units of survey feet.

Figure 1.1: Lidar Task Order AOI and Base Station Locations



Section 2: Acquisition

The existing lidar data was acquired with a Leica ALS70 500 kHz Multiple Pulses in Air (MPiA) Lidar Sensor System, on board Woolpert Cessna aircraft. The ALS70 lidar system, developed by Leica Geosystems of Heerbrugg, Switzerland, includes the simultaneous first, intermediate and last pulse data capture module, the extended altitude range module, and the target signal intensity capture module. The system software is operated on an OC50 Operation Controller aboard the aircraft.

The ALS70 500 kHz Multiple Pulses in Air (MPiA) Lidar System has the following specifications:

Table 2.1:

ALS Lidar System Specifications	
Operating Altitude	200 – 3,500 meters
Scan Angle	0 to 75° (variable)
Swath Width	0 to 1.5 X altitude (variable)
Scan Frequency	0 – 200 Hz (variable based on scan angle)
Maximum Pulse Rate	500 kHz (Effective)
Range Resolution	Better than 1 cm
Elevation Accuracy	7 - 16 cm single shot (one standard deviation)
Horizontal Accuracy	5 – 38 cm (one standard deviation)
Number of Returns per Pulse	7 (infinite)
Number of Intensities	3 (first, second, third)
Intensity Digitization	8 bit intensity + 8 bit AGC (Automatic Gain Control) level
MPiA (Multiple Pulses in Air)	8 bits @ 1nsec interval @ 50kHz
Laser Beam Divergence	0.22 mrad @ 1/e ² (~0.15 mrad @ 1/e)
Laser Classification	Class IV laser product (FDA CFR 21)
Eye Safe Range	400m single shot depending on laser repetition rate
Roll Stabilization	Automatic adaptive, range = 75 degrees minus current FOV
Power Requirements	28 VDC @ 25A
Operating Temperature	0-40°C
Humidity	0-95% non-condensing
Supported GNSS Receivers	Ashtech Z12, Trimble 7400, Novatel Millenium

Prior to mobilizing to the project site, Woolpert flight crews coordinated with the necessary Air Traffic Control personnel to ensure airspace access.

Woolpert survey crews were onsite, operating a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Base Station for the airborne GPS support.

The lidar data was collected in three (3) separate missions, flown as close together as the weather permitted, to ensure consistent ground conditions across the project area.

An initial quality control process was performed immediately on the lidar data to review the data coverage, airborne GPS data, and trajectory solution. Any gaps found in the lidar data were relayed to the flight crew, and the area was re-flown.

Figure 2.1: Lidar Flight Layout, Ashland County Wisconsin Lidar

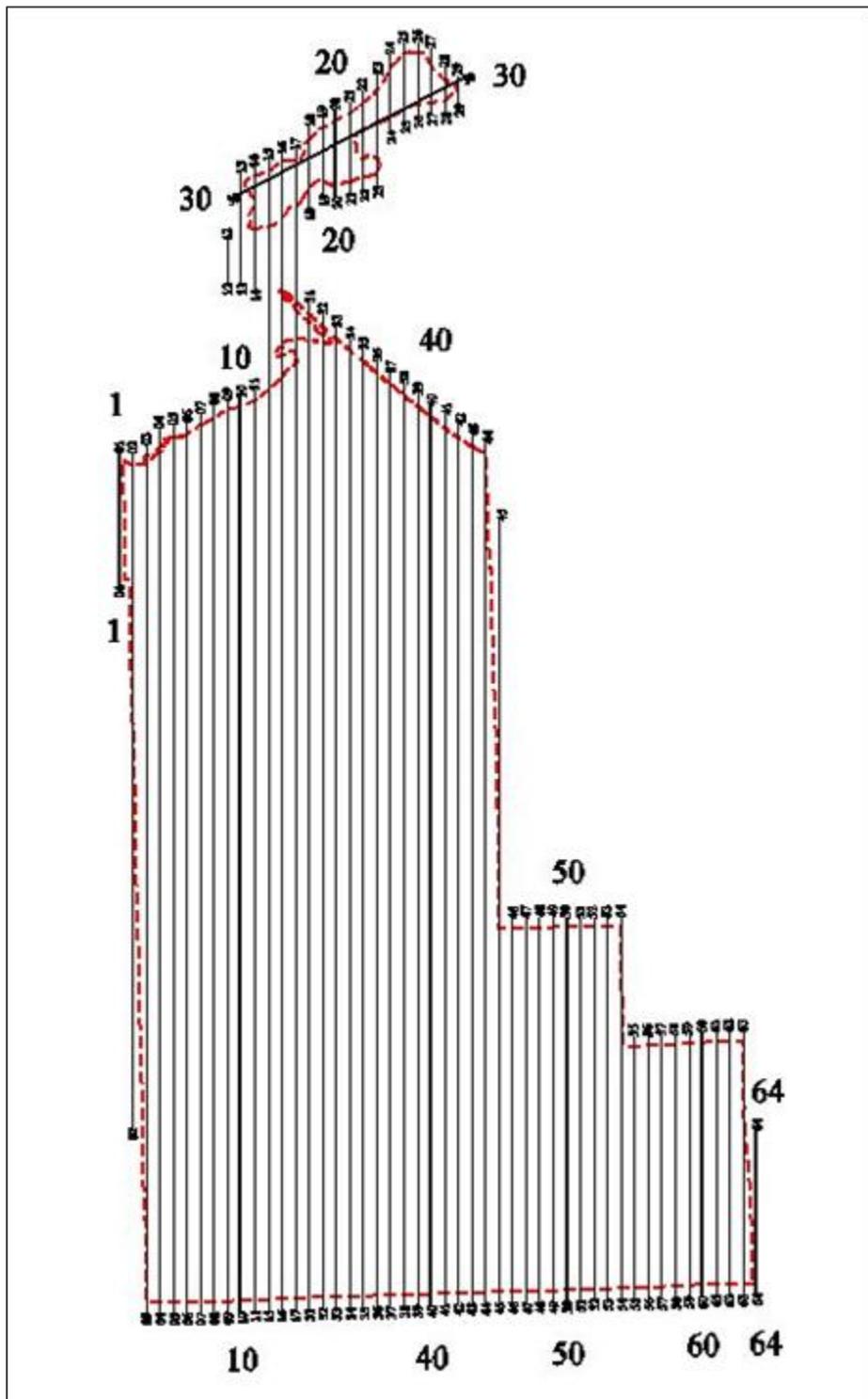


Table 2.2: Airborne Lidar Acquisition Flight Summary

Date of Mission	Lines Flown	Mission Time (UTC) Wheels Up/ Wheels Down	Mission Time (Local = EDT) Wheels Up/ Wheels Down
November 1, 2014 – Sensor 7177	1-11, 14-25, 31-38	16:25 – 0:13	11:25AM – 07:13PM
November 2, 2014 - Sensor 7177	12-13,26-30,39-64	13:45 – 20:57	08:45AM - 03:57PM
April 17, 2015 – SH7108	49	13:35 – 17:25	08:35AM – 12:25PM

Section 3: Lidar Data Processing

Applications and Work Flow Overview

1. Resolved kinematic corrections for three subsystems: inertial measurement unit (IMU), sensor orientation information and airborne GPS data. Developed a blending post-processed aircraft position with attitude data using Kalman filtering technology or the smoothed best estimate trajectory (SBET).
Software: POSPac Software v. 5.3, IPAS Pro v.1.35.
2. Calculated laser point position by associating the SBET position to each laser point return time, scan angle, intensity, etc. Created raw laser point cloud data for the entire survey in LAS format. Automated line-to-line calibrations were then performed for system attitude parameters (pitch, roll, heading), mirror flex (scale) and GPS/IMU drift.
Software: ALS Post Processing Software v.2.75 build #25, Proprietary Software, TerraMatch v. 14.01.
3. Imported processed LAS point cloud data into the task order tiles. Resulting data were classified as ground and non-ground points with additional filters created to meet the task order classification specifications. Statistical absolute accuracy was assessed via direct comparisons of ground classified points to ground RTK survey data. Based on the statistical analysis, the lidar data was then adjusted to reduce the vertical bias when compared to the survey ground control.
Software: TerraScan v.14.011.
4. The LAS files were evaluated through a series of manual QA/QC steps to eliminate remaining artifacts from the ground class.
Software: TerraScan v.14.011.

Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) – Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) Trajectory Processing

Equipment

Flight navigation during the lidar data acquisition mission is performed using IGI CCNS (Computer Controlled Navigation System). The pilots are skilled at maintaining their planned trajectory, while holding the aircraft steady and level. If atmospheric conditions are such that the trajectory, ground speed, roll, pitch and/or heading cannot be properly maintained, the mission is aborted until suitable conditions occur.

The aircraft are all configured with a NovAtel Millennium 12-channel, L1/L2 dual frequency Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receivers collecting at 2 Hz.

All Woolpert aerial sensors are equipped with a Litton LN200 series Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) operating at 200 Hz.

A base-station unit was mobilized for each acquisition mission where a CORS station was not utilized, and was operated by a member of the Woolpert acquisition team. Each base-station setup consisted of one Trimble 4000 – 5000 series dual frequency receiver, one Trimble Compact L1/L2 dual frequency antenna, one 2-meter fixed-height tripod, and essential battery power and cabling. Ground planes were used on the base-station antennas. Data was collected at 1 or 2 Hz.

The GNSS base station operated during the Lidar acquisition missions is listed below:

Table 3.1: GNSS Base Station

Station (Name)	Latitude (DMS)	Longitude (DMS)	Ellipsoid Height (L1 Phase center) (Meters)
MIIW CORS Base	46° 28' 12.86538"	-90°09' 56.56048"	420.172
PID RM0890	46° 33' 05.94204"	-90°54' 57.26501"	219.273

Data Processing

All airborne GNSS and IMU data was post-processed and quality controlled using Applanix MMS software. GNSS data was processed at a 1 and 2 Hz data capture rate and the IMU data was processed at 200 Hz.

Trajectory Quality

The GNSS Trajectory, along with high quality IMU data are key factors in determining the overall positional accuracy of the final sensor data. Within the trajectory processing, there are many factors that affect the overall quality, but the most indicative are the Combined Separation, the Estimated Positional Accuracy, and the Positional Dilution of Precision (PDOP).

Figure 3.1: Trajectory, Day 30514_SH7177

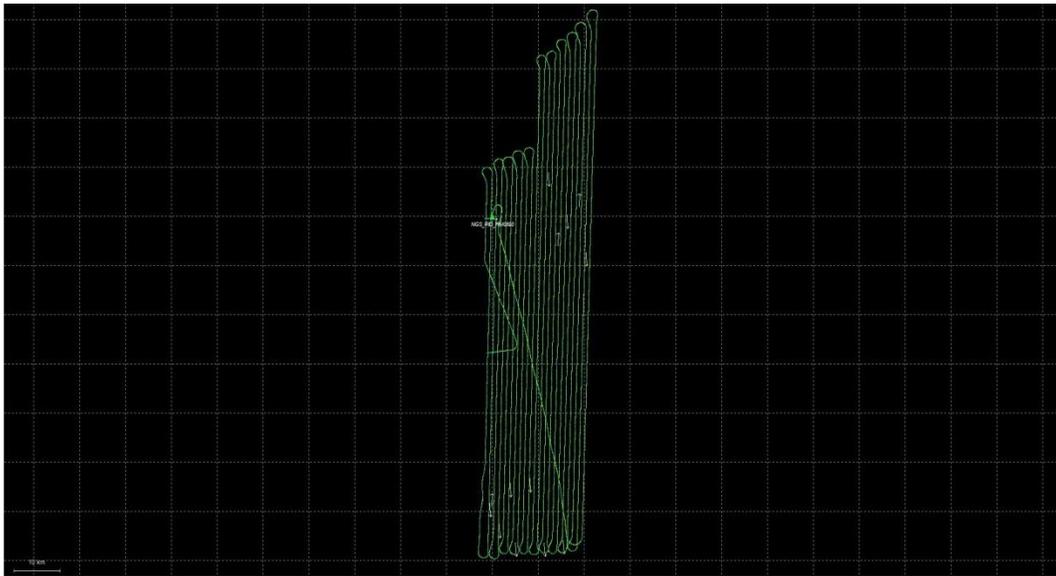


Figure 3.4: Combined Separation, Day 30514_SH7177

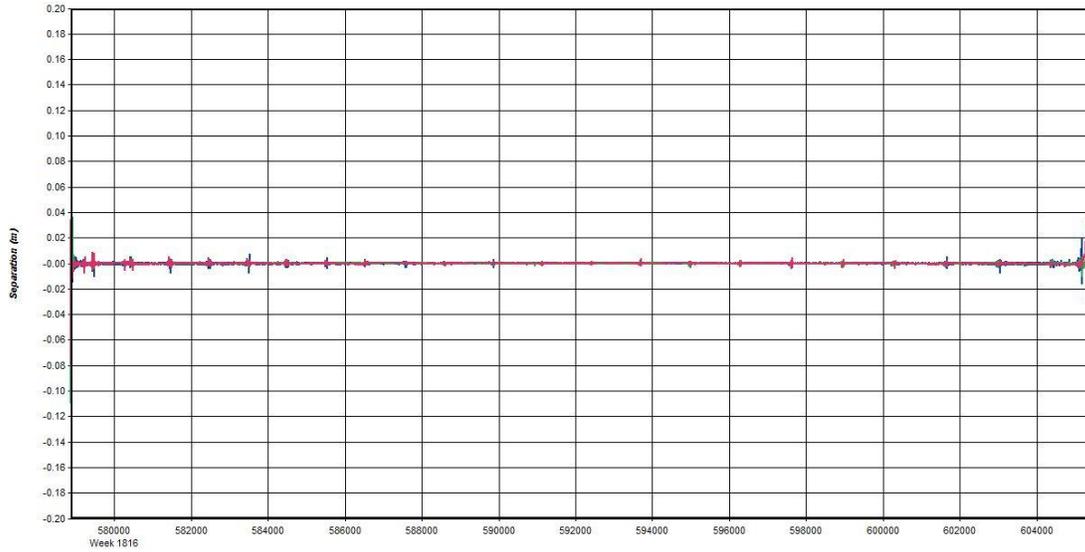


Figure 3.5: Combined Separation, Day 30614_SH7177

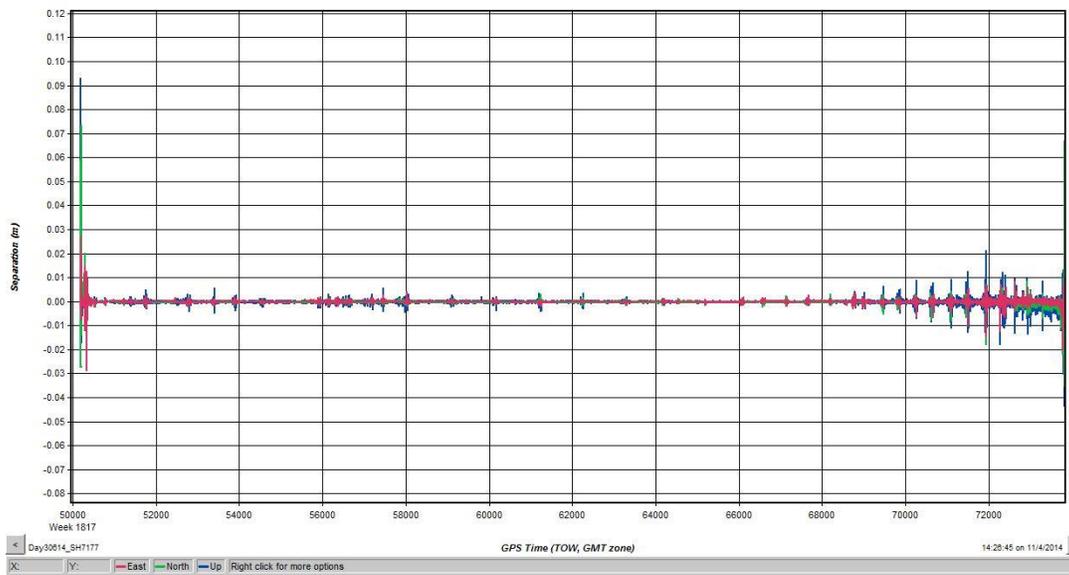
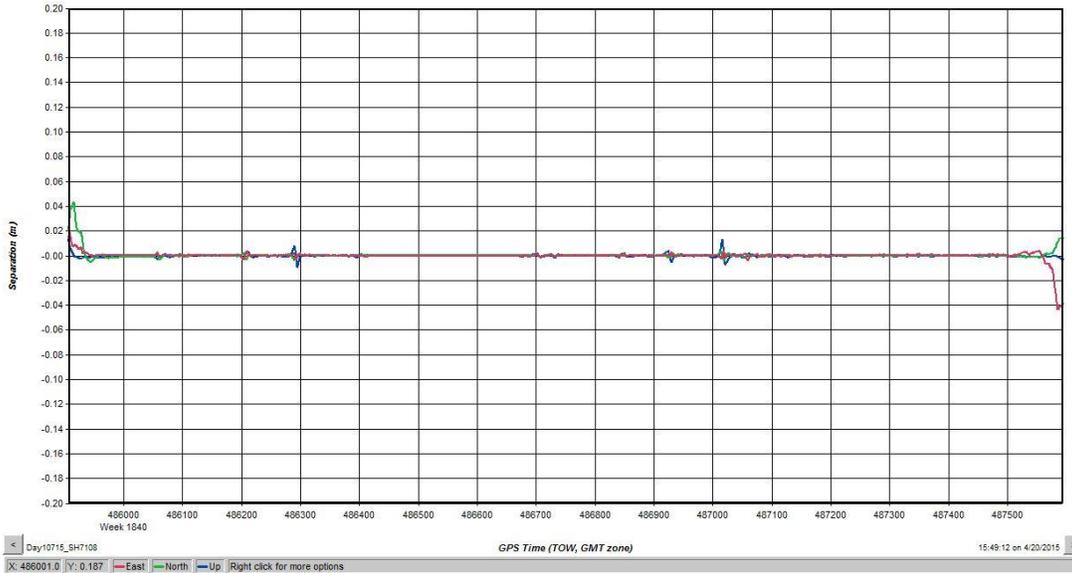


Figure 3.6: Combined Separation, Day 10715_SH7108



The Estimated Positional Accuracy plots the standard deviations of the east, north, and vertical directions along a time scale of the trajectory. It illustrates loss of satellite lock issues, as well as issues arising from long baselines, noise, and/or other atmospheric interference.

Woolpert’s goal is to maintain an Estimated Positional Accuracy of less than ten (10) centimeters, often achieving results well below this threshold.

Figure 3.7: Estimated Positional Accuracy, Day 30514_SH7177

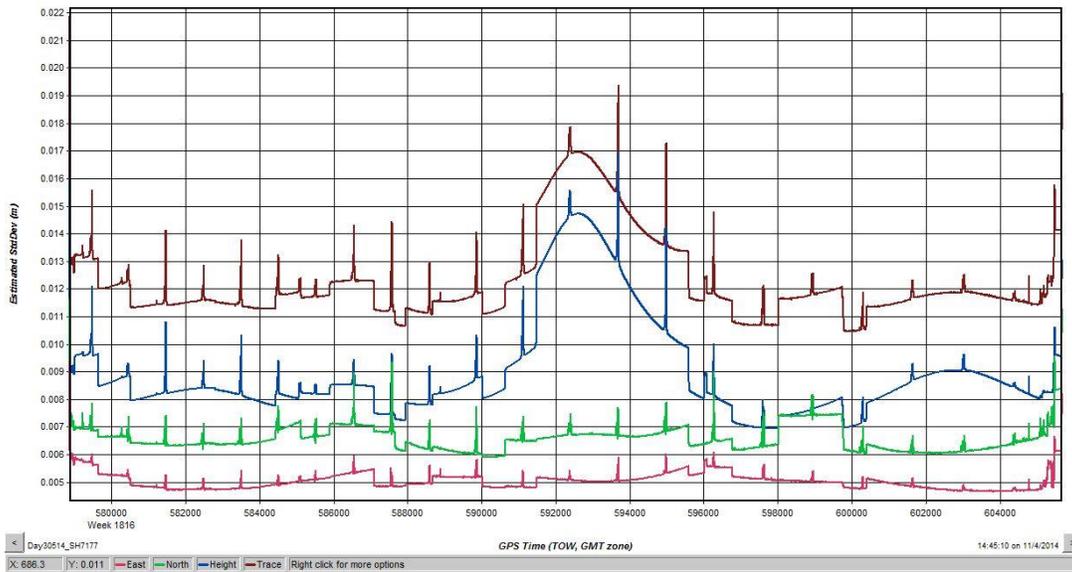


Figure 3.8: Estimated Positional Accuracy, Day 30614_SH7177

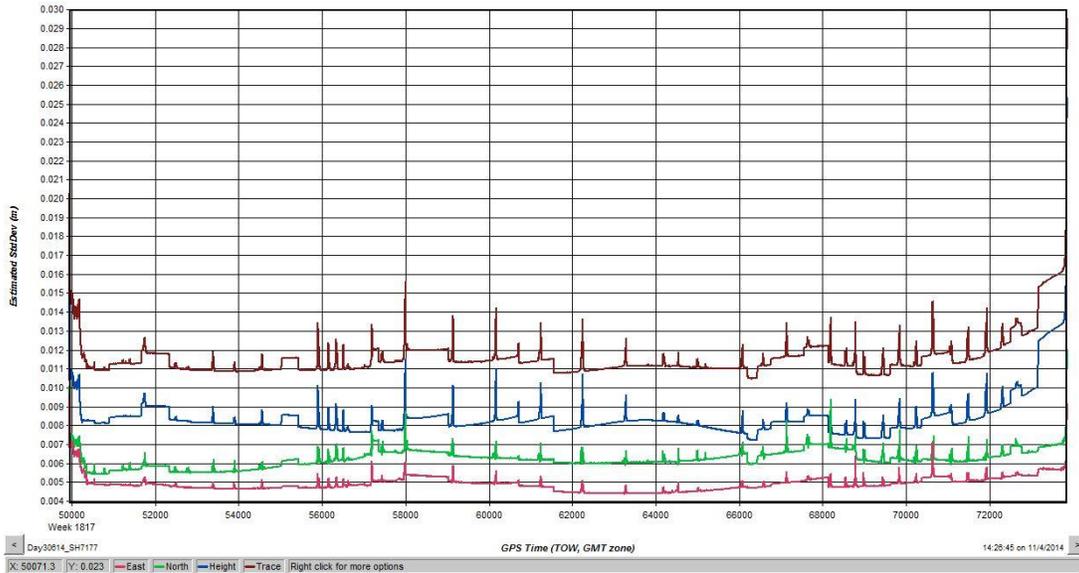
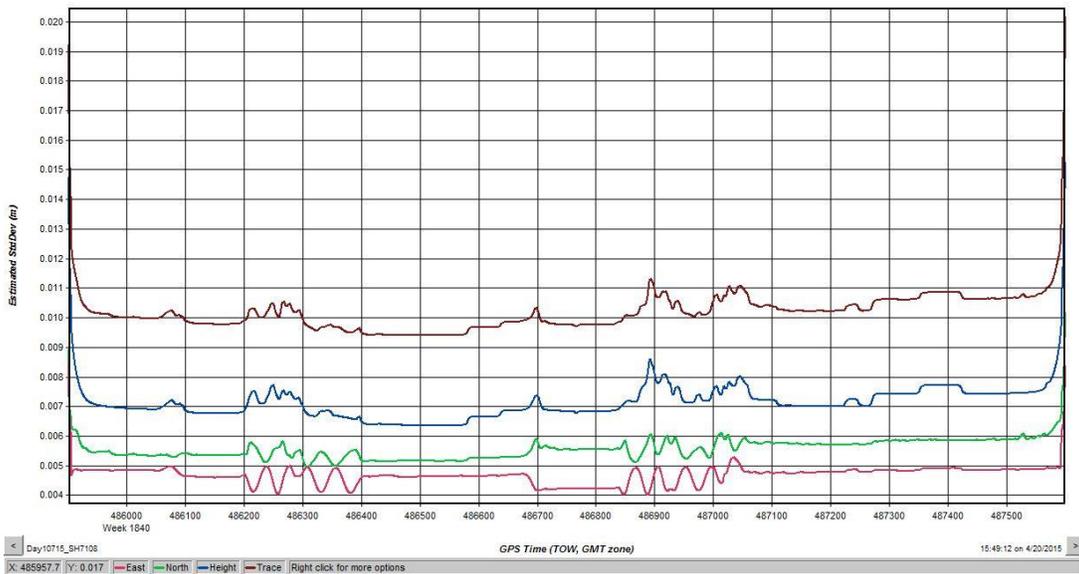


Figure 3.9: Estimated Positional Accuracy, Day 10715_SH7108



The PDOP measures the precision of the GPS solution in regards to the geometry of the satellites acquired and used for the solution.

Woolpert’s goal is to maintain an average PDOP value below 3.0. Brief periods of PDOP over 3.0 are acceptable due to the calibration and control process if other metrics are within specification.

Figure 3.10: PDOP, Day 30514_SH7177



Figure 3.11: PDOP, Day 30614_SH7177

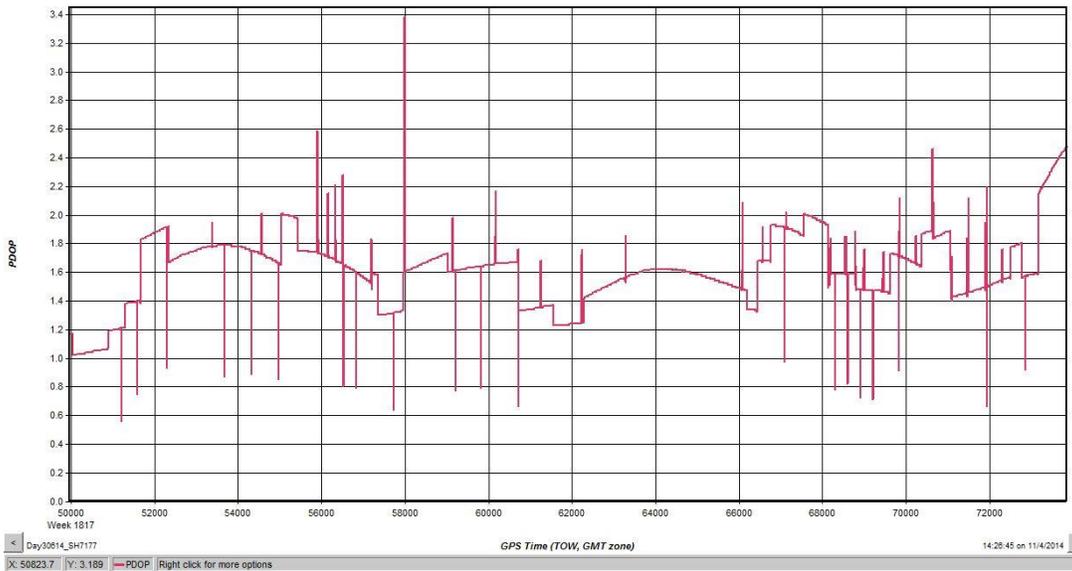


Figure 3.12: PDOP, Day 10715_SH7108

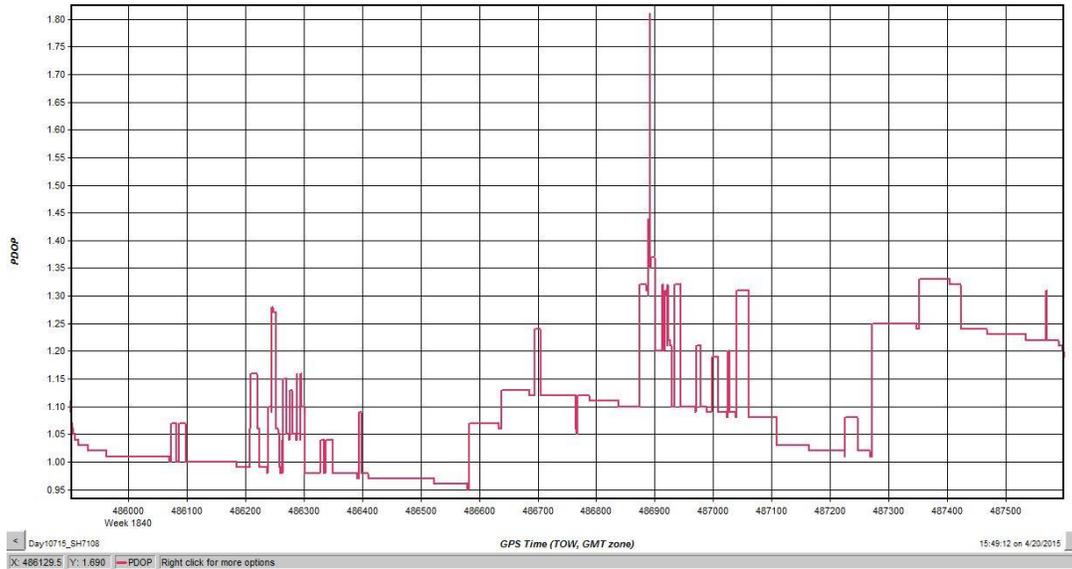


Figure 3.13: Altitude, Day30514_SH7177

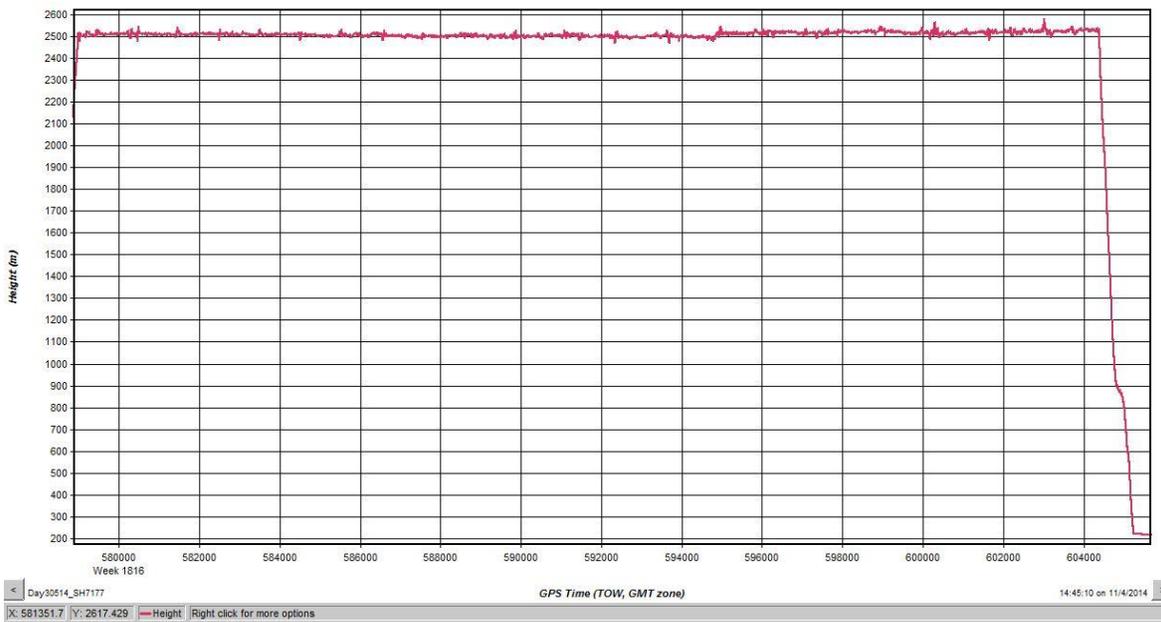


Figure 3.14: Altitude, Day30614_SH7177

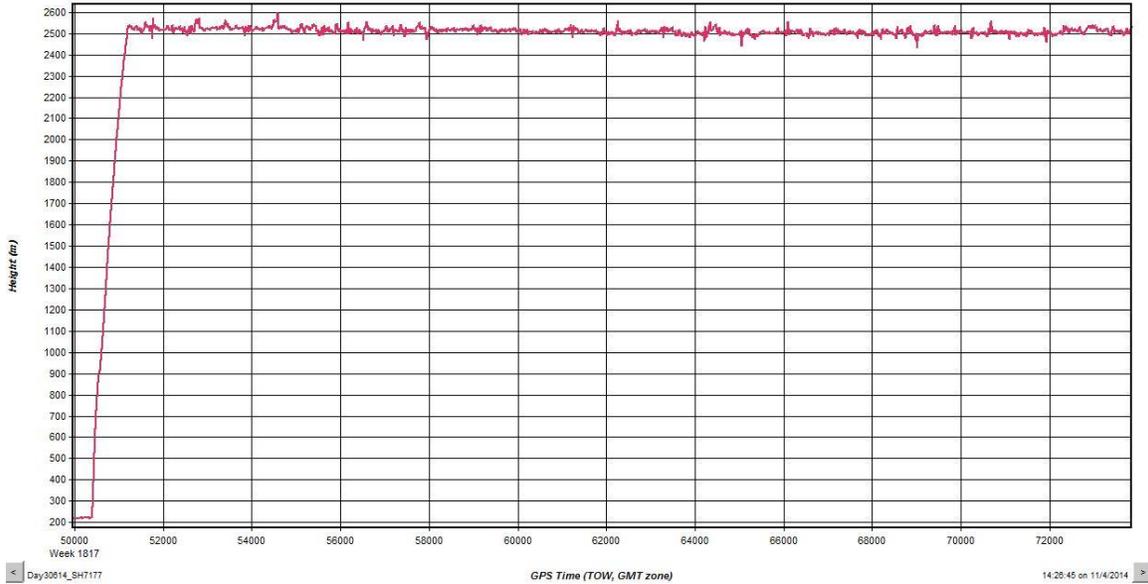
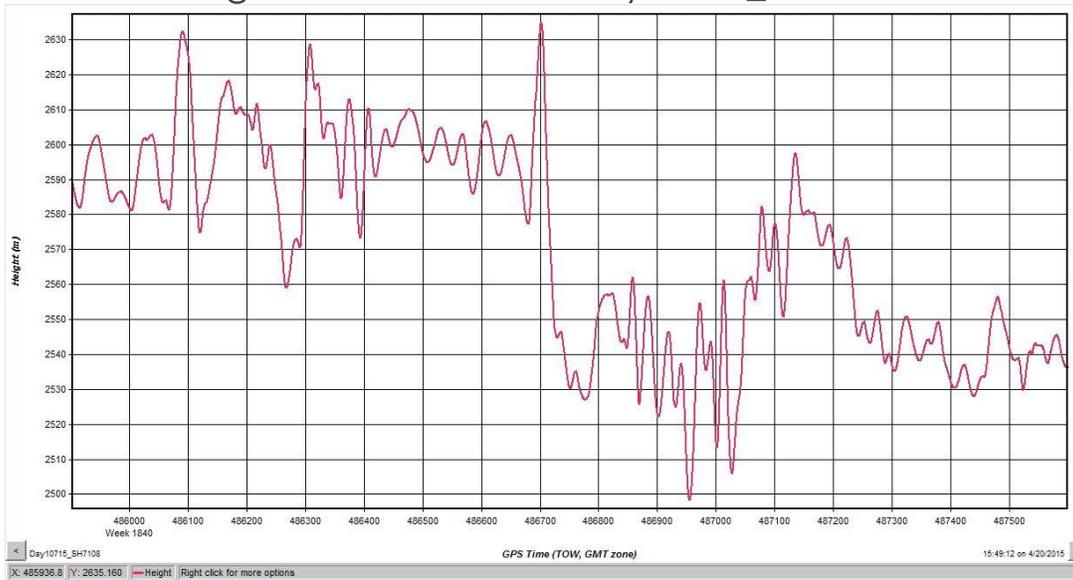


Figure 3.15: Altitude, Day10715_SH7108



Lidar Data Processing

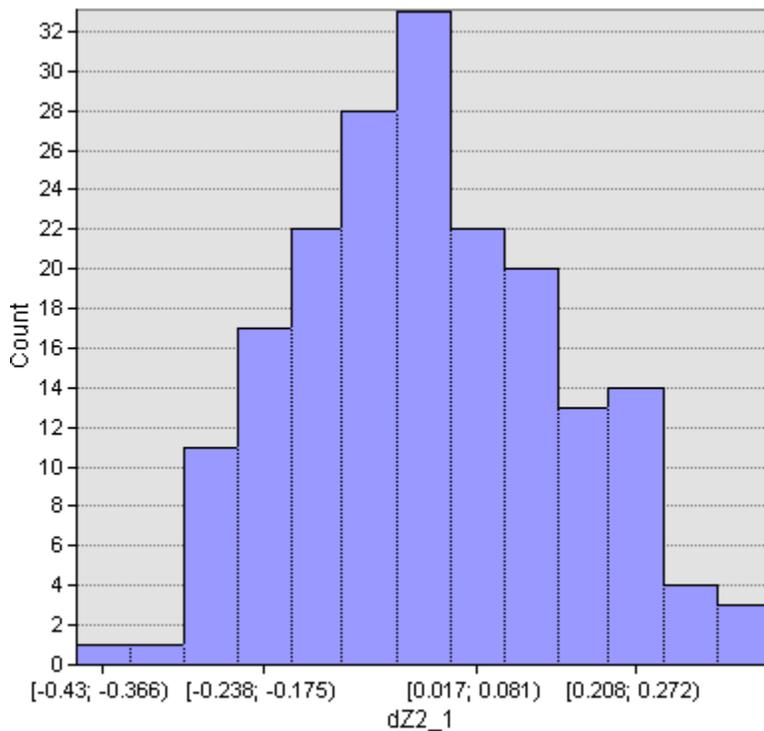
When the sensor calibration, data acquisition, and GPS processing phases were complete, the formal data reduction processes by Woolpert lidar specialists included:

- Processed individual flight lines to derive a raw “Point Cloud” LAS file. Matched overlapping flight lines, generated statistics for evaluation comparisons, and made the necessary adjustments to remove any residual systematic error.
- Calibrated LAS files were imported into the task order tiles and initially filtered to create a ground and non-ground class. Then additional classes were filtered as necessary to meet client specified classes.

- Once all project data was imported and classified, survey ground control data was imported and calculated for an accuracy assessment. As a QC measure, Woolpert has developed a routine to generate accuracy statistical reports by comparisons against the TIN and the DEM using surveyed ground control of higher accuracy. The lidar is adjusted accordingly to meet or exceed the vertical accuracy requirements.
- The lidar tiles were reviewed using a series of proprietary QA/QC procedures to ensure it fulfills the task order requirements. A portion of this requires a manual step to ensure anomalies have been removed from the ground class.
- The lidar LAS files are classified into the Default (Class 1), FGDC Compliant metadata was developed for the task order in .xml format for the final data products.
- The horizontal datum used for the task order was referenced to in UTM, Zone 15, North American Datum of 1983 (2011) in units of meters. The vertical datum used for the task order was referenced to NAVD 1988, GEOID12A, in units of survey feet.
- Relative vertical accuracy refers to the internal geometric quality of a lidar dataset, without regard to surveyed ground control. Overlap consistency (interswath) was tested at 20 locations all over the project area. Overlap consistency is a measure of geometric alignment of two overlapping swaths; the principles used with swaths can be applied to overlapping lifts and projects as well. Overlap consistency will be assessed at multiple locations within overlap in nonvegetated areas of only single returns. The overlap areas that will be tested are those between the following:
 - Adjacent, overlapping parallel swaths within a project,
 - Cross-tie swaths and the intersecting project swaths, and
 - Adjacent, overlapping lifts.

The average line to line difference was tested at -0.010 survey feet. The RMSDz of line to line difference is 0.162 survey feet. The number of samples is 189. The Frequency of relative vertical accuracy between flightlines is shown as following.

Figure 3.16: Histogram Interswath Accuracy



- This LAS 1.2 dataset contains return numbers beyond a 5th return(6th, 7th, 8th, etc). A fully compliant LAS 1.2 file only supports the encoding of up to and including 5 returns in the LAS header information. Any subsequent returns (6th, 7th, 8th, etc) cannot be encoded in the header and most lidar processing software will generate a warning stating "Number of points by return not equal point record count".
- The vertical scale factor of this lidar dataset is 0.01. The LAS generating software defaults the vertical scale factor to 0.001 so the Z-value of a lidar point at 50.53 ft is stored by the software as 50.530 ft. This is what is known as "fluff". There is nothing wrong with the data only that most lidar processing softwares are able to detect this "fluff" and display a warning.
- The scan angle rank in point data record is the angle at which the laser point was output from the laser system includes roll of the aircraft added by roll compensation. Due to the tiled nature of the LAS data, some LAS files may exhibit a lower scan angle rank than what the overall project was acquired at and/or contain only negative or positive scan angle ranks. This is due to the fact that when swath data is imported to a tiled format that tile assumes whatever scan angle rank values that fall within that tile boundary. See figure 3.17- Assuming that nadir of the swath falls roughly on the tile boundary it could be expected that tile 672152 might only contain negative scan angle ranks or have lower scan angle ranks than anticipated.

Figure 3.17: Scan Angle Rank



Section 4: Flight Logs

Flight logs for the project are shown on the following pages:

Woolpert															
Leica LIDAR		Survey/Job	Day of Year	Project #	Phase #	Project Name									
		11/1/2014	30514	74908	1	Ashland, WI									
Name		Project	Elevation	Start/End Time		Start/End Time		Start/End Time		Start					
GALAMBOS		N7079F	3430.7	11:25:00		16:25:00				N85					
Plot		Access Type	ID/Date/Time	Local End Time		Date End Time				310					
SWAIN		ALS-7177	3438.2	7:13:00		0:13:00				RMO890					
Wind Speed	Visibility	Ceiling	Cloud Cover %	Temp	Dew Point	Pressure		Humidity/Cloud		Departing	KASX				
240 7	10+	Clear	0	3	-5	30.44				Arriving	KASX				
Scan Angle (FOV)		Scan Frequency (Hz)		Pulse Rate (kHz)		Laser Power %		Fixed Gain		Mode	Threshold Values				
40		34.4		230		100		2.55		Single	A 170				
								Gain - Course/Up		Multi	B 150				
								Gain - Fine/Down							
Air Speed		AGL		MSL		Waveform Used		Waveform Mode		Pre-Trigger Dist.					
150		7800		8400		Yes No X		NS		Ft					
Line #	Dir.	Line Start Time	Line End Time	Time On Line	SVs	HDOP	PDOP	Line Notes/Comments							
Test	n/s			n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	GPS Began Logging At: 16:30:00							
↓ Times entered are Zulu / GMT ↓												Verify S-Turns Before Mission	Yes	No	
1	N	16:53:53	16:56:06	10:08:10	17	0.7	1.2	Takeoff: 11:37 (L) 16:37 z							
2	S	16:58:34	17:09:36	0:00:00	18	0.7	1.1	Conditions on the hills similar							
3	N	17:14:55	17:29:15	0:00:00	17	0.7	1.1	to the condition in Mass that							
4	S	17:31:47	17:46:32	0:00:00	17	0.7	1.1	we flew last spring							
5	N	17:48:48	18:03:22	0:00:00	17	0.7	1.3	light dusting of snow and/or							
6	S	18:05:42	18:20:24	0:00:00	17	0.7	1.3	thick frost							
7	N	18:22:13	18:36:55	0:00:00	17	0.7	1								
8	S	18:39:22	18:54:28	0:00:00	17	0.7	1.1	DROPOUTS DUE TO THE BAY							
9	N	18:56:22	19:11:17	0:00:00	18	0.6	1	and numerous ponds							
10	S	19:13:40	19:28:44	0:00:00	16	0.6	1.2								
11	N	19:30:34	19:45:52	0:00:00	15	0.6	1.1	as we work east it appears as							
14	N	19:47:16	19:49:23	0:00:00	17	0.6	1.1	the dusting of snow increases							
15	S	19:51:40	20:10:40	0:00:00	15	0.6	1.2								
16	N	20:12:34	20:31:37	0:00:00	15	0.6	1.2								
17	S	20:33:52	20:53:20	0:00:00	17	0.7	1.1								
31	N	20:55:06	21:11:47	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.2								
18	N	21:13:12	21:14:43	0:00:00	17	0.6	1.2								
19	S	21:17:02	21:18:43	0:00:00	18	0.7	1.1								
32	S	20:20:14	21:36:42	0:00:00	18	0.7	1.3								
33	N	21:38:30	21:54:55	0:00:00	17	0.7	1.1								
20	N	21:56:55	21:58:27	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1								
21	S	22:00:53	22:02:26	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1								
34	S	22:04:40	22:21:09	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1								
35	N	22:23:00	22:38:50	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1								
22	N	22:41:22	22:43:08	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1								
23	S	22:45:42	22:47:34	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1								
36	S	22:50:20	23:06:14	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1								
37	N	23:07:55	23:23:25	0:00:00	16	0.7	1.4								
24	N	23:27:29	23:28:12	0:00:00	16	0.7	1.3	Landing: 00:07:11							
25	S	23:31:12	23:37:35	0:00:00	16	0.7	1.3	Static: 00:11:20 - 00:13:20							
38	S	23:36:46	23:52:09	0:00:00	16	0.7	1.3								
↑ Times entered are Zulu / GMT ↑												Page	Verify S-Turns After Mission	Yes	No
Additional Comments:												Drive #			

Woolpert													
Leica LIDAR		Monday/Day	Day of Year	Project #	Page #	Project Name							
		11/2/2014	306	74908	1	Ashland, WI							
Client	Contract	Contract #	Contract Date	Contract Value	Contract Unit	Contract Start		Contract End		Contract Status			
GALAMBOS	N7079F	3432.2	8:45:00	13:45:00	NGS								
Pilot	Street Type	Block #	Local End Time	City End Time	State								
SWAIN	ALS-7177	3445.1	3:57:00	20:57:00	RVD890								
Wind Dir/Speed	Visibility	Ceiling	Cloud Cover %	Temp	Dew Point	Pressure		Humidity/Sea Level		Departing	KASX		
190 7	10	Clear	0	2	-6	30.13				Arriving	KDLH		
Scan Angle (FOV)	Scan Frequency (Hz)	Pulse Rate (kHz)	Laser Power %	Fixed Gain	Mode	Threshold Values							
40	34.4	230	100	255	Single	A 170							
				Gain - Course/Up	Multi	B 150							
				Gain - Fine/Down									
Air Speed	AGL	MSL	Waveform Used	Waveform Mode	Pre-Trigger Dist.								
150	7800	8400											
Line #	Dir.	Line Start Time	Line End Time	Time On Line	SV's	HDOP	PDOP	Line Notes/Comments					
Test	n/a			n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	GPS Began Logging At: 13:53:00					
↑ Times entered are Zulu / GMT ↑													
39	N	14:23:00	14:34:00	5:28:59	17	0.6	1.2	Verify 5-Turns Before Mission (ref. Y/N) No Takeoff: 13:59:30/ Fast beginning					
47	S	14:40:44	14:48:15	0:00:00	16	0.7	1.5	line 39 remain 12.5 miles wpts 25 -1					
46	N	14:50:14	14:56:45	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.5	fast beginning					
49	S	14:59:26	15:07:01	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.4						
54	N	15:10:13	15:16:54	0:00:00	16	0.7	1.2	wpts 15-7 clouds					
26	N	15:29:02	15:30:23	0:00:00	16	0.6	1.2	Dropouts due to water					
27	S	15:33:08	15:34:30	0:00:00	16	0.6	1.4	surrounding Islands					
28	N	15:36:50	15:37:42	0:00:00	14	0.8	1.4						
29	S	15:40:24	15:41:04	0:00:00	15	0.8	1.4						
30	SW	15:44:48	15:49:43	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.2						
12	N	15:53:49	15:54:32	0:00:00	15	0.7	1						
13	S	15:58:27	16:00:32	0:00:00	18	0.6	1						
40	S	16:07:47	16:23:54	0:00:00	17	0.6	1						
41	N	16:26:02	16:41:05	0:00:00	17	0.6	1.5						
42	S	16:43:42	16:59:08	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1						
43	N	17:01:03	17:15:50	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1						
44	S	17:18:16	17:23:00	0:00:00	19	0.6	1.1						
45	N	17:35:16	17:49:30	0:00:00	19	0.6	1.2						
39	N	17:55:58	18:02:41	0:00:00	16	0.7	1.5	Manu Strt UL 001 wpt 28 -1					
48	S	18:13:10	18:19:42	0:00:00	18	0.6	1.1						
51	N	18:21:50	18:28:26	0:00:00	18	0.6	1						
50	S	18:30:46	18:37:20	0:00:00	17	0.6	1.1						
53	N	18:39:40	18:46:14	0:00:00	18	0.6	1						
52	S	18:48:30	18:55:00	0:00:00	19	0.6	0.9						
55	N	18:57:12	19:03:40	0:00:00	19	0.6	0.9						
54	N	19:06:40	19:08:52	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.2	PATCH JOB wpts 16- 6/UL002					
56	S	19:11:20	19:15:49	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.2						
57	N	19:18:09	19:22:37	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.2						
58	S	19:24:53	19:29:19	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.2						
59	N	19:31:30	19:35:55	0:00:00	15	0.7	1.2						
60	S	19:38:30	19:43:00	0:00:00	17	0.7	1.2	SEE PAGE #2					
↑ Times entered are Zulu / GMT ↑		Page			1		Verify 5-Turns After Mission		Y		X		No
Additional Comments:										Drive #			
										00096			

Section 5: Final Deliverables

The final lidar deliverables are listed below.

- LAS v1.2 unclassified point cloud.
- FGDC compliant project level metadata in XML format
- Post-flight aerial acquisition and calibration report
- Lidar certificate of compliance