



OpenTug + Globalstar

Modernizing Barge Visibility with Satellite Tracking

OpenTug is revolutionizing one of the most overlooked yet essential modes of freight transportation: inland barging. Through its comprehensive barge management software platform, BargeOS, OpenTug delivers end-to-end visibility into barge operations, optimizing logistics for raw materials, agriculture, and the oil and gas sectors. By integrating advanced satellite tracking technology like Globalstar's SmartOne Solar device, OpenTug eliminates persistent blind spots in barge movements, offering real-time, seamless visibility to a barge even in the remotest river areas.



Challenge

Barging outperforms rail and truck in ton-mile efficiency, cutting carbon emissions and operational costs, yet it lags behind in modernization. Barges frequently travel in multi-barge tows over long distances and are often left at fleeting points along riverbanks for pickup by another barge. These “light hauls” disrupt the visibility chain, leaving shippers in the dark about asset locations, conditions, and timelines.

This issue can be worsened through manual processes of tracking. In an industry where supply chain disruptions can halt refineries and demurrage fees can soar into the thousands of dollars, creating a scenario where the price of uncertainty is tremendous.

Cellular tracking can fall short in river systems, especially rural or industrial zones, and barge operators, particularly in oil and gas, demand hardware that adheres to rigorous intrinsic safety standards, further complicating solutions.

Solution

OpenTug’s BargeOS platform tackles these challenges head-on by providing a unified digital logistics solution for quoting, booking, real-time tracking, and cost estimation. To ensure unbreakable visibility, OpenTug incorporates Globalstar’s SmartOne Solar satellite tracking devices, deployed directly onto barges. These durable, solar-powered, magnetized units function independently of towboats or carriers, allowing continuous monitoring even during unattended periods.

Leveraging global satellite coverage, BargeOS delivers uninterrupted insights across every river segment, bypassing cellular dead zones. The device’s low-maintenance, user-friendly design supports OpenTug’s scalable deployments, with successful rollouts reaching up to 800 units in the oil and gas sector by the end of 2025. As of 2025, OpenTug has enhanced BargeOS with AI-driven features for smarter data reporting and automation, building on this satellite foundation to integrate additional sensors like accelerometers for advanced incident detection and analytics.

This integration empowers OpenTug users with deeper platform value, enabling automated workflows, predictive insights, and seamless coordination between shippers, carriers, and terminals.



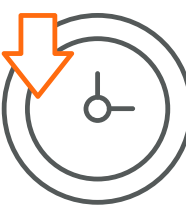
Results

With its satellite-enhanced tracking at the core, OpenTug’s BargeOS unlocks transformative benefits:



Unbroken Visibility

Dependable real-time barge location data in remote areas empowers shippers to bypass unreliable manual reports and maintain full oversight.



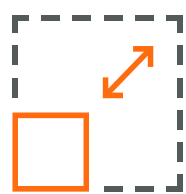
Reduced Demurrage

Accurate forecasting of arrivals via tracking insights helps optimize dock planning and dodge expensive idle penalties.



Improved Compliance

Comprehensive visibility across all movement phases, attended or unattended, facilitates audits and reduces disputes.



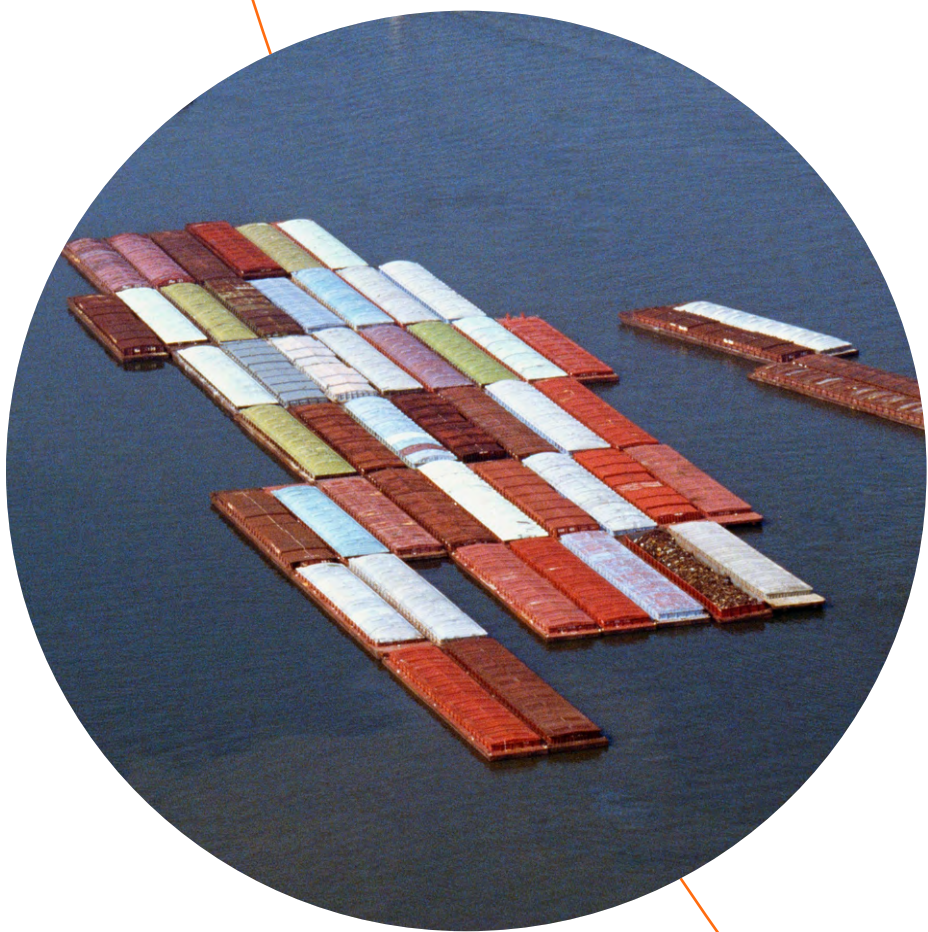
Scalable Deployment

The versatile satellite backbone allows OpenTug to layer on advanced AI features and use cases, amplifying long-term value for customers and the platform.



Confidence in Coverage

Energy and industrial clients rely on OpenTug’s guaranteed tracking to sustain critical supply chains where traditional methods fail.



About OpenTug

OpenTug is an AI-native platform purpose-built for managing inland and coastal barge logistics. OpenTug helps shippers and operators track barges, predict costs, validate invoices and optimize voyages. The platform brings visibility and predictability across the entire barge lifecycle, simplifying complex and opaque supply chains.

About Globalstar

Globalstar empowers its customers to connect, transmit, and communicate in smarter ways – easily, quickly, securely, and affordably – offering reliable satellite and terrestrial connectivity services as an international telecom infrastructure provider.

The Company's low Earth orbit ("LEO") satellite constellation ensures secure data transmission for connecting and protecting assets, transmitting critical operational data, and saving lives for consumers, businesses, and government agencies across the globe. Globalstar's terrestrial spectrum, Band 53, and its 5G variant, n53, offer carriers, cable companies, and system integrators a versatile, fully licensed channel for private networks with a growing ecosystem to improve customer wireless connectivity, while Globalstar's XCOM RAN product offers significant capacity gains in dense wireless deployments.

In addition to SPOT GPS messengers, Globalstar offers next-generation internet of things ("IoT") hardware and software products for efficiently tracking and monitoring assets, processing smart data at the edge, and managing analytics with cloud-based telematics solutions to drive safety, productivity, and profitability. For more information, visit www.globalstar.com.

To learn more about how Globalstar can benefit your business, contact us at salesinfo@globalstar.com.

