

Timeline of technical developments at Awarua Satellite Ground Station

1913	Awarua VLB (later ZLB) Coast Radio station opens.
1991	Awarua Coast Radio station closes.
2004	Venture Southland establishes the 'Unwin' TIGER radar at Awarua for La Trobe University, Melbourne, which measures the ionosphere towards the South Magnetic Pole between 8 MHz – 20 MHz in conjunction with its complementary station at Bruny Island, Tasmania. Unwin is part of the global SuperDARN network and is on the old Awarua Coast Radio site.
May 2004	Venture Southland (the Southland regional development agency), the European Space Agency (ESA) and the French Space Agency (CNES) begin work to establish Awarua Satellite Ground Station (known at the time as Awarua Tracking Station) on a green-field site at Awarua.
2007	Venture Southland with Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet negotiate the <i>Arrangement between the Government of New Zealand and the European Space Agency on the setting up and use of telemetry and tracking facilities for the purpose of the Agency's launcher programmes and activities</i> . This provides benefits to the Southland region, with Venture Southland being the implementing agency on the New Zealand side.
2007	Venture Southland and CNES sign a 10 year services agreement to support CNES activities at Awarua Satellite Ground Station.
2007	Awarua Tracking Station is opened by Mr Chris de Cooke, Head of International Relations, ESA and Hon. David Parker, Minister for Geospatial Information. ESA transfers the station to Venture Southland.
2008	Awarua SGS provides the first of five downrange services for CNES for ESA's ATV resupply missions to the International Space Station.
October 2009	Venture Southland publishes "What on Earth", a strategy report evaluating the competitive advantages enjoyed by Southland for commercialising space.
2011	Downrange services for ESA's Ariane 5 ATV-2 'Johannes Kepler' resupply mission.
2013	Planet Labs' first S/X-Band and UHF antennas is commissioned at Awarua SGS
2014	European Space Operations Centre (ESOC) global navigation satellite system monitoring station at Awarua SGS is commissioned.
2014	Venture Southland Charitable Trust purchases 1.7 ha of land from Wylie Farms, including the land leased at Awarua for CNES use, to establish Awarua Satellite Ground Station. The purchase places a caveat over the remaining Wylie Farms Ltd land to protect future operations.
2015	Planet Labs' second S/X-Band antenna and UHF stations are commissioned at Awarua SGS.
2015	First SpaceFlight S/X-Band and UHF antennas commissioned at Awarua SGS.
2015	Awarua Communications Museum opens in the former Awarua Coast Radio standby-transmitter hall.
2015	Spire-Global satellite ground station is established at Lochiel, north of Invercargill.
2016	Fibre-optic cable connects Awarua SGS to the rest of the world.
2017	Venture Southland becomes a voluntary member of the New Zealand Government's Protective Security Requirements Capability Model.
2017	The mains power is upgraded to three-phase supply at Awarua SGS.

2017	KSAT establishes a 5 metre TT&C antenna and equipment at Awarua SGS to support the first few, demonstrator Starlink satellites for SpaceX.
2018	Venture Southland Charitable Trust purchases additional 2.8 ha of land from Wylie Farms Ltd.
2018	Venture Southland provides downrange services for Rocket Lab's first orbital mission, 'Still Testing'.
2018	INV-1 UHF ground station facilities established at Awarua SGS.
2018	Supported first University of Canterbury sounding rocket launch at Taringatua
2019	KSat "NZ02" antennas established
2019	Venture Southland becomes Southland Development Agency Ltd, trading as Great South, and the Space business unit transfers to Great South.
2020	Great South engineers establish antennas for Leaf Space and others without vendor and client engineer assistance due to Covid-19 restrictions on border entry.
2020	Great South provided space operations for University of Auckland's APSS-1 cubesat mission.
2020	First SpaceX Starlink Gateway established in New Zealand (and first Gateway outside of USA).
2021	The 'AWA-1' 3.7m S/X-Band antenna is commissioned for commercial use. ATLAS Space Operations out of Michigan take exclusive use of the antenna.
2021	The Space business unit in Great South is spun off as Space Operations New Zealand Limited, trading as SpaceOps NZ.
2023	SpaceOps NZ acquires AUT's Warkworth Radio Astronomy Observatory and operations. The observatory's purpose is refocussed to become 'Warkworth Space Centre', supporting space geodesy, lunar communications and PNR.
2024	A second, route-diverse fibre-optic cable to Awarua SGS is commissioned.
2024	The AWA-4 3.7m S/X-Band antenna is commissioned at Awarua SGS.