



Prague, 16 November 2012

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

### **Galileo Security Monitoring Center being built in France**

**Today, at the site of the future main Galileo Security Monitoring Center (GSMC) in Saint Germain en Laye outside Paris, a ground-breaking ceremony was organised by the French Space Agency (CNES), with a large contingent of French civilian and military authorities and EU officials in attendance.**

Carlo des Dorides, Executive Director of the European GNSS Agency (GSA), the European Union Agency responsible for operating the GSMC, attended the event, "This marks a key step in the development of the Galileo programme", said des Dorides. "The excellent collaboration with France on the GSMC is a positive step for Galileo as well as for Europe."

The GSMC – the future heartbeat of Galileo programme security - will be in charge of several major tasks including: overall management of the system security, management of the Galileo Public Regulated Service (PRS) access, command and control of European GNSS in accordance with the Joint Action, and provision of PRS and GNSS security expertise and analysis. The centre will ensure the reliability of the Galileo system that is crucial for its success.

Yannick d'Escatha, President of CNES and interministerial coordinator for the Galileo programme said, "The progression of the GSMC project is very positive. It is one of the key steps for the success of Galileo and another proof of the interest of France for the security of this major European programme. Together, the European Union and its Member States are benefiting from this fruitful collaboration. The installation of the GSMC in Saint Germain en Laye is a strong symbol of this collaboration."

### **Galileo moving forward**

Following the recent launch of two Galileo satellites on 12 October, this is another milestone for the future European global navigation system. The GSMC building phase, organised by CNES in collaboration with the French Ministry of Defence, is scheduled to be completed in 2013. The centre will be run by a staff of approximately 30 professionals from across Europe.

Along with France, a second site of the GSMC is hosted by the United Kingdom and will be located in Swanwick.

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