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P R E S S R E L E A S E

The European GNSS Service Centre helps users' access data

Today, Antonio Tajani, European Commission Vice-President, responsible for enterprise and industry policy, and Ana Pastor, Spanish Minister of Transport, inaugurated the European GNSS Service Centre in Torrejón outside Madrid within the National Institute of Aerospace Technologies (INTA) facilities with large attendance of Spanish authorities.

The European GNSS Service Centre (GSC), operated by the European GNSS Agency (GSA), will primarily act as an interface between the Galileo navigation system and user communities of the open and commercial services.

The centre will support the dissemination of information to companies seeking to use satellite sourced data for products and services based in a wide range of different sectors, such as agriculture, transport and mapping.

Vice President Tajani attended the event "the inauguration of the European GNSS Service Centre, today, is an additional tool of our strategy in favour of the development of GNSS applications, the innovation and the support of the SMEs."

Galileo moving forward

During the Galileo In-Orbit Validation (IOV) phase, the GSC is operating a general Helpdesk function. An upgrade will be developed to support Early Services provision by the end of 2014 with additional content and functionalities.

By mid-2015 a new version of the GSC will be ready to support the dissemination of commercial data through a real-time interface.

The GSC will continue to evolve over time in order to become fully functional in support of the Galileo Full Operational Capability (FOC) services.

Carlo des Dorides, Executive Director of the European GNSS Agency (GSA), the European Union Agency responsible for operating the GSC, declared "This marks another step in our dedication to support entrepreneurs and companies to develop their activities thanks to the European Satellite Navigation data."

The EU and Spain working together for the development of the GSC

The service center involves an investment of around 34 million euro. Spain has financed around €4m for the preliminary study and construction of the building, while the EU is funding the additional €30m necessary to engineer and outfit the centre. In addition to the jobs generated during the construction of the centre, it will employ between 35 and 50 highly skilled workers.

A dedicated website **www.gsc-europa.eu** is available for a best efficiency and reactivity towards Galileo users. This proves the continuing involvement of the GSA for Galileo.

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For more information: www.gsc-europa.eu

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