



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Galileo begins delivery of Initial Services

***As of 15 December 2016, for the first time ever, people around the world are being guided using the positioning, navigation and timing information provided by Galileo's global satellite constellation.***

With 18 Galileo satellites in orbit and the supporting ground station infrastructure working, Galileo, Europe's global satellite navigation system (GNSS), is now available for use. The first services offered by Galileo include the Open Service, Public Regulated Service (PRS) and Search and Rescue Service (SAR). All services are free of charge.

The announcement was made at a special Galileo Initial Services event held at the European Commission's Berlaymont building in Brussels. Speaking at the event, European Commission Vice President responsible for the Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič said: "With Galileo, Europe gains its own satellite navigation system that will improve a range of everyday services for our citizens and strengthens Europe's strategic autonomy."

With the launch of Initial Services, Galileo officially transitions from a system in testing to a system in service. As Europe's link between space technology and user needs, the GSA has been delegated the responsibility for the Galileo service provision by the European Commission. As of 1 January 2017, the GSA will have the core task of ensuring a return on investment from Galileo in the form of clear, across-the-board services and applications for end users. "The centre of gravity for the Galileo programme is now the user, meaning European citizens, businesses and entrepreneurs can benefit from the many innovative opportunities created by European GNSS," said GSA Executive Director Carlo des Dorides.

"Galileo Initial Services is the result of a concerted effort to design and build the most accurate navigation system in the world," added European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Elżbieta Bieńkowska. "It demonstrates the technological excellence of Europe and its commitment to delivering space-based services and applications." The Commissioner concluded the event by officially launching Galileo Initial Services.

Other speakers included: European Commission Deputy Director General Pierre Delsaux, GSA Administrative Board Chairman Jean-Yves Le Gall, ESA Director General Jan Woerner, Head of the Italian Space Agency Roberto Battiston, Arianespace CEO Stephan Israel, STMicroelectronics

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European  
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France CEO Thierry Tingaud, Qualcomm EMEA Vice President and Head of Government Affairs Wassim Chourbaji, and BQ Head of Product Development Christian Fernández.

### **User benefits**

Galileo Initial Services are fully interoperable with GPS. With Galileo satellites working in conjunction with GPS, there are more satellites available, allowing for:

- more accurate and reliable positioning for end users
- increased positioning and accuracy, particularly important for navigation in cities, where satellite signals are often blocked by tall buildings
- Galileo's Search and Rescue service improves the locating of distress beacons, reducing response time from up to three hours to just ten minutes
- Galileo's excellent 30 nanosecond timing accuracy enables more resilient synchronisation of banking and financial transactions, telecommunication and energy distribution networks, helping them operate more efficiently.

### **Galileo products already on the market**

Today, 17 companies, including STM, u-blox, Broadcom, Mediatek, Intel and Qualcomm produce Galileo-ready chips. There are also a number of Galileo-ready devices on the market, including smartphones and vehicle navigation systems. Up-to-date information on all available Galileo compatible products is available at: [www.useGalileo.eu](http://www.useGalileo.eu)

### **A GNSS under civil control**

Galileo stands alone as the world's only option for GNSS under civil control. Initial Services – a combined effort of the European Commission, European GNSS Agency (GSA), and European Space Agency (ESA) – is the first step toward full operational capability, which will occur when the Galileo constellation is complete in 2020.

### **More information**

[The GSA's Galileo Initial Services page](#)

The [European GNSS Service Centre](#) is the place to go for all things related to developing Galileo-capable products and services.

[GSA Ready for Initial Services](#) (video)

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