

Business Bridge Europe

EUROPOLITICS

GALILEO - Conference

Brussels - 24th of June 2008

1st and 2nd Sessions

Galileo moves forward

The Galileo project will now be looking towards further development opportunities as it nears its launch in 2013. The morning of the 24 June conference produced many insights into the future of the Galileo project. The present institutions, the European Commission, the European Space agency, the European Parliament, the European Investment Bank, the committee of the regions, and the Economic and Social Committee all expressed their wish to see the project completed on schedule. The morning focused in the institutions, infrastructure and user interfaces that will come together to launch Galileo in 2013.

Jean-Jacques Dordain, the director general of the European Space agency opened the first plenary session by elaborating on how the project will depend on the ground infrastructure to succeed. Dordain cited three different conditions that must be met for it to succeed as a long lasting system. The first was lasting operational structures,

making sure that supplies will be readily available for the needs of the project. The second area he focused on was stable financing for the long term. And the third was maintaining the technical quality of the set up. He stressed the importance of continual development to avoid the technology becoming obsolete.

THE TENDER PROCESS

Matthias Ruete, the Director General of DG Transport for the European Commission, followed Dordain. He revisited the last speech he made on the Galileo project, a year and a half ago, to announce the crisis that had befallen the project. Ruete was much more optimistic today as he talked about the future of the project. He focused on how the project will be the first one of its kind for the European community. The European Commission will own the Project, which will be a change from the joint ownership of projects that it has shared in the past. Ruete congratulated the European Parliament for its work not only in supporting the project, but also in helping to attain funding for it. He finished his speech by looking towards the tendering process, which will be starting

shortly. "People can tender for something that right now is virtual", said Ruete.

The tender process was spotlighted in the morning sessions. The Tender process for Galileo will be following the EU tender process. While Ruete said the process would start in the next few days, no decision is expected before the end of the year said Dordain. The competitive negotiation procedure that will be used does not allow a specific end date to be announced says Ruete.

Alain Bories the Honorary President of the Galileo Services Association emphasized that dual sourcing was an important strategy to ensure the functioning of the program.

Etelka Barsi Pataky an MEP on the Transport and Industry Committee spoke to the conference on the parliaments' support of the program. She described the division of responsibilities that the program is organized under. The EU commission will be responsible for program management, the EU space program for contract

EUROPOLITICS

GALILEO - Conference
Brussels - 24th of June 2008

More info: www.europolitics.info

negotiations, and the Galileo Satellite Authority (GSA) for market preparation and regulation.

MARKET SUCCESS

The first session of the day was brought to a close by Giuseppe Aridon, the Vice-President of Telespazio. He brought attention to already competitive market for Navigation services and stressed that Galileo must differentiate itself from other services in order for it to succeed. "Users do not care about Galileo, users have needs", Aridon said to stress the attention that must be paid to developing a competitive product.

Janos Toth the President of the Transport Section of EESC opened the second session after break by looking towards the new business models and industry opportunities that will be created through the development of Galileo. He said that the program now needs to look towards intellectual property rights and privacy protection. Fotis Karamitsos the Director of DG Transport for the European Commission said that the perception of Galileo being "big

brother watching you" needs to be changed.

5 years are left before Galileo launches, and that is particularly apparent to Jean-Claude Dardelet the Vice-President of Institutional Business at Thales Alenia Space. He put forth the idea that maps that are being created for Galileo now should be used for EGNOS now. Dardelet also wants receivers to say EGNOS on their screens so that credit can be given to the providers.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Petr Osvald the Vice-President of COTER in the Committee of the Regions spoke during the second plenary. For Osvald Galileo represents a new tool to help the development of European regions. Through the use of Galileo there will be more effective crisis management techniques and the environment monitoring will be improved. But he says that there needs to be greater involvement from the regions and cities in order for this to become a reality.

The possibilities that Galileo provides for work in more remote

areas was also a focus of Gard Ueland the President of the Galileo Services Association. Ueland talked about the service that Galileo will provide to industries such as oil and gas, that will be able to use services made possible by Galileo to improve their operations in remote areas. Ueland called for Europe to support industry initiatives, warning that they should not lose an opportunity by acting too small.

The opportunities that Galileo will provide for Businesses, and the services that it will provide to people became a main topic of discussion during the second plenary of the conference. Speakers addressed the needs of the insurance industry by the creation of a system like this, and the needs of the public in their interaction with Galileo. services that it will provide to people became a main topic of discussion during the second plenary of the conference. Speakers addressed the needs of the insurance industry by the creation of a system like this, and the needs of the public in their interaction with Galileo.