

## European GNSS applications R&D at a standstill

Today, it is one year since European GNSS Industry together with key universities' representatives launched the Manifesto for "a More Committed Europe towards the Development of GNSS Applications".

Munich SatNav Summit 2010 was witnessing the birth of the lobby campaign for European GNSS applications Research, led by Galileo Services Association, European GNSS downstream industry representative. This campaign has borne fruit as, one year after, European Institutions now are aware of the critical situation the European GNSS Applications development is facing as a result of the radical budget cut decision in 2007. A number of European Institutions communications, such as *Council conclusions about the EC communication concerning the Action Plan on GNSS Applications* issued on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 or *the European Parliament draft report on transport GNSS applications* issued on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 is proving this public awareness: the need for investments in research into GNSS applications and services is recognized and new financial instruments, such as the the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, are under investigation. Galileo Services welcomes these initiatives.

However, the four coming years may be fatal for the involvement of EU industry in the GNSS downstream segment. The last FP7 GNSS call for proposal was indeed closed at the end of the last year, leaving empty EC related FP7 coffers. As already stressed this will have serious consequences for most EU GNSS downstream organisations whose related activities could be strongly slowed down, if not frozen until 2015, at a time when the crucial new multi-GNSS multi-sensor technologies must be developed.

*"We know that EU-budget decrease is a reality, but it seems irresponsible, in the present economic situation, to leave out one of the most promising areas in terms of market and socio-economic fallouts, namely GNSS applications and services",* stated Miss Axelle Pomies, Galileo Services Permanent Representative.

*"As Internet, GNSS technology becomes omnipresent; that is present in almost all vehicles and vessels, on mobiles phones and other devices. It will be used everywhere that people go – eventually also indoors. The number of potential applications not developed yet is tremendous. We have to give Europe a chance to take a significant part of this growth and indirectly also recovering some of the massive investments in infrastructure",* Mr G. Ueland, President of Kongsberg Seatex and Chairman of Galileo Services pointed out.

In 4 years GNSS technology may be out of reach and Europe will not be able to make up for lost time – unless perhaps a considerable increase of the dedicated budget.

**The Manifesto signatories urge the EU to provide the European GNSS downstream Industry with the means to become and to remain competitive by restoring the GNSS Research initial budget within the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme and considerably increasing the level of EU's GNSS R&D funding for post-2013 period to match other continents public R&D investments.**

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