

GALILEO: a Strategic, Crucial and Affordable Investment for Europe that must not be delayed

Year 2006 was marked by the successful transmission of the first GALILEO signals from space. Having demonstrated that satellite navigation technology is definitely within reach of the European Industry, the GALILEO Programme is now confronted to an organisational issue: the implementation of the adopted Public Private Partnership starting from such early stage of the Programme is questioned. This issue must not delay nor jeopardize the GALILEO Programme.

Satellite navigation is an essential element of 21st century infrastructure. Today, at a scale unimaginable ten years ago, satellite navigation is deeply embedded in everybody's life. About a decade ago, the European leadership recognized this importance and decided to invest in GALILEO for reasons of sovereignty, economic development, global presence, etc. Today, these reasons are increasingly more valid and have prompted all the economic powers of the world to invest in their own satellite navigation system.

GALILEO is a very affordable Programme. As the world's economic powerhouse, Europe can afford to build up and maintain a Programme whose total cost amounts to ten billion euros over the next 20 years, i.e. 500 million euros per year or to hardly one (1) euro per European citizen per year.

Today, there are sufficient existing mechanisms to refund this public investment. Without a doubt, the public investment in the infrastructure will be reimbursed to the Member States through taxes, social contributions, etc. on the tens of thousands of high-qualified jobs generated by the downstream market. Not to mention growing VAT revenues on sales of GALILEO products and services that will result in hundreds of millions if not billions of euros annually over two decades.

GALILEO has a huge leverage effect, as the market for receivers, applications and services is estimated at tens billions euros per year in 2010 and reaching hundreds of billions euros annually by 2025. **It is one of the key projects to reach the Lisbon objective.**

One third of the market can be captured by European Industry and in particular by SMEs, creating tens of thousands of high-qualified jobs. This is even more critical, as the market of navigation and positioning is one of the key markets of the future, promised to **grow even higher than mobile communications some years ago.** Europe has to succeed in this market the same way it has succeeded in GSM.

Further delays are not longer acceptable. Each year of delay makes it more difficult for Europe and its Industry to capture its share of the market. Today the market is served primarily by GPS and for some niches by the Russian GLONASS.

GALILEO has the potential of becoming an attractive alternative or addition to these systems for a long range of applications. However, the Chinese COMPASS system is aggressively claiming a role as a new, global system that might even be available earlier than GALILEO. Three more COMPASS satellites have already been launched this year. For this reason, it could even for some users become a more attractive alternative. Clearly, if this should be the situation, large parts of especially the consumer market could vanish or at least be seriously delayed for GALILEO.

Galileo Services, as the representative of downstream Industry that has shown substantial support and long term commitment to GALILEO, is concerned about the credibility of the Programme among the Industry and its prospective users.

Europe is a global power and must invest in instruments to continuously increase its global presence. GALILEO is the instrument par excellence. The public investment in GALILEO is perfectly affordable and holds an unprecedented potential return to Europe's taxpayers!

Any further delay seriously threatens the very existence and deployment of GALILEO.

Galileo Services therefore appeals to the European Institutions to urgently find a lasting solution for the GALILEO Programme.

About Galileo Services

Galileo Services is a non-making profit organisation of Industries covering GNSS Applications and Services. Comprising today 28 key companies, the association aims at promoting the use of Galileo in equipments, applications and services, and hence at developing the downstream market to fully exploit all possible business potentials. Galileo Services mission comprises market development, R&D and demonstrations, and assistance to the Galileo programme implementation.

The Association is open to any organisation interested in Galileo downstream development from EU and non-EU countries.

Galileo Services Members are today:

ARGOSS, Astrium Services, dmedia System, EDISOFT, Euro Telematik, Eutelsat, FDC, GMV, Hispasat, Indra, Ineco-Tifsa, JAVAD GNSS, Kayser-Threde, Kongsberg Seatex, LogicaCMG, Mapflow, Navteq, NovAtel, OHB Technology, SEIKO EPSON, Septentrio, Skysoft Portugal, Sogei, Tele Atlas, Telespazio, Terma, Thales, TNO.

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