

## Launch of the two first Galileo IOV Satellites Dawn of a new era for Europe

**Galileo Services Association is delighted about the successful launch of the two first Galileo IOV satellites.** As stressed in a letter to Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission, *“the start of the realization of this wonderful European project marks a new era for Europe and its citizens on one hand and for the downstream segment with GNSS applications and services on the other hand”*.

These two first satellites also represent the first step paving the way for the next major achievement of the Galileo programme: the Galileo Initial Operational Capability (IOC). **It is worth underlining at this stage the crucial importance of Galileo IOC deployment within the critical time limit of 2014.**

Galileo must indeed become concrete for developers of satellite navigation applications and services worldwide in the shortest term. Even with a restricted constellation of 18 satellites in 2014, Galileo, together with GPS, will deliver significantly improved performances, opening a wide window of opportunities for Europe. The European programme must therefore not endure any further delay.

On the other hand, it is worth reminding that the full Galileo deployment will not ensure the full success of the Galileo programme. A success means, the use of the Galileo infrastructure, ROI in Europe, and benefits for Europe’s citizens: Growth, employment and enhancing the citizens’ wellbeing. The Galileo success actually depends on the preparation of the Galileo user segment and the EU GNSS downstream market development. The lack of EU public funding before the IOC and FOC will unfortunately prevent the adequate preparation of the user segment.

**In its letter to Mr Tajani, Galileo Services finally stresses “the huge risk of the absence of EU public GNSS applications R&D budget until 2014, whereas it is absolutely essential that European GNSS/Galileo downstream industry is ready when IOC availability will be declared.”** The association urges therefore the European Commission, the European Council and the EU Member States to enforce the European Parliament Resolution of 7 June 2011 on Transport applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

*Ref.: Galileo Services Position Paper “Satellite Navigation Applications realizing the Ambitions of EU2020”, “Manifesto for a more committed Europe towards the development of GNSS applications”*

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