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CNES and GSA announce EGNOS partnership agreement

CNES and GSA, the European GNSS Agency, have signed a partnership agreement regarding GSA's request to member states to establish an EGNOS Service Performance Monitoring Support network (SPMS).

Jean-Yves Le Gall, CNES President and Galileo interministerial coordinator, and Carlos des Dorides, Executive Director of GSA, have confirmed the signing of a partnership agreement establishing the legal framework for member states to provide support to GSA in supplying the EGNOS European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service. Operational since 2009, EGNOS is today key to developing services based on European assets within the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). The SPMS network will ensure access to a broad palette of GNSS skills and expertise through existing national capabilities and sustain a long-term relationship to establish, maintain and deploy an EGNOS performance monitoring network.

To set up the SPMS network, CNES will be coordinating and working with a number of national bodies:

- INRIM (Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca Metrologica), Italy,
- Lantmäteriet, the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority
- NMA, the Norwegian Mapping Authority (Kartverket)
- PECNY Geodetic Observatory, Czech Republic
- ROB (Royal Observatory of Belgium)
- SRC-PAS (Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Science)
- SYRTE time-space reference systems laboratory of the Observatoire de Paris, France

Activities covered by the CNES/GSA agreement notably include performance monitoring of the SBAS signal and service, ad-hoc investigations in the event of anomalies experienced with EGNOS and technical support to the EGNOS programme's working groups.

CNES is a pioneer in satellite navigation and is considered one of the main contributors to deploying a GPS augmentation system (SBAS) in Europe. EGNOS is Europe's first satellite navigation initiative, offering a certified service for aeronautical users since 2011. It is owned by the European Union and since 1 January 2014 GSA has been tasked with operating, maintaining and upgrading it, and supplying services with support from ESA and ESSP (European Satellite Service Provider).

Commenting on the announcement of the agreement, Jean-Yves Le Gall said: "In this crucial period for the deployment of Galileo, we need to show member states' commitment to supporting GSA's growth with the best skills and expertise that Europe has to offer. This agreement on EGNOS must be seen as a first tangible step in that direction, with CNES and its partners providing their historic experience in this domain."

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