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## Galileo Programme Didier Faivre receives GNSS Leadership Award

**At this year's ION GNSS+ conference, which is organized annually by the Institute of Navigation (ION), a panel of international experts gathered by the magazine GPS World has given a 2016 Leadership Award to Didier Faivre, ESA's former Director of Navigation Programmes and the incoming Director of the Guiana Space Centre (CSG), for his exceptional contribution to the deployment of the Galileo system.**

The ION GNSS+ conference, held this year 12-16 September in Portland, Oregon, is the world's largest technical meeting and showcase of GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) technology, products and services. Since it first appeared on the scene in 1989, GPS World has become a leading publication covering the full spectrum of the satellite positioning industry. Every year at ION GNSS+ it gives four GNSS Leadership Awards in the categories Products, Services, Signals and Satellites. This year's award in the Satellite category has gone to Didier Faivre for his exceptional contribution to the Galileo programme during his time as Director of Navigation Programmes at the European Space Agency (ESA).

This award confirms the pre-eminent place that Europe now occupies in the navigation services market, thanks to the unwavering political support of European institutions, the efforts and talents of its space agencies and manufacturers, and the quality and performance of its EGNOS and Galileo systems and services.

The EGNOS programme, a joint effort of the European Commission, ESA and CNES that is today fully operational and in service with Europe's civil aviation authorities, is being developed from the Toulouse Space Centre. The Galileo programme is pursuing its deployment, with 14 satellites already launched from the Guiana Space Centre and four more in preparation for a first launch on Ariane 5 this November. Galileo will then be able to provide its initial services, to be progressively improved and implemented throughout deployment of the constellation which will eventually include 30 satellites.

Commenting on the award, CNES President and Chair of the GSA Administrative Board Jean-Yves Le Gall said: "This distinction is just reward for Didier Faivre's tireless efforts and personal commitment to the Galileo programme, and for his pivotal and vital role in developing the satellite constellation. Didier is without a doubt one of the fathers of this system which is fundamental to the safety of Europe's citizens. CNES is proud of the fact that Didier recently joined its Executive Committee."

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