

Press Release

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European Space Week 2018 in Marseille Space technology serving Europe

From Monday 3 to Thursday 6 December, Marseille is hosting European Space Week 2018, a leading European Union event showcasing space technologies and their users, organized by the European Commission, CNES and GSA, the European GNSS¹ Agency. Elżbieta Bieńkowska, European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Jan Wörner, Director General of ESA, Carlo des Dorides, Executive Director of GSA, and CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall took part in this event.

The plenary session on Tuesday 4 December focused attention on how Europe's two flagship space programmes, Galileo and Copernicus, are continually improving our daily lives.

The Copernicus Earth-observation programme has a space component consisting of seven Sentinel satellites currently in orbit. Generic Copernicus services are today available in the fields of climate change, land surfaces, the marine environment, atmosphere, security and emergency response. The data supplied by these services are already enabling concrete applications, notably to inform decisions concerning the environment and security.

With regard to Galileo, there are now 26 satellites in orbit delivering services with a level of performance already exceeding that of the system's U.S., Russian and Chinese counterparts. User communities have been quick to latch on to this system to develop new services for transport, agriculture and high-frequency trading. With full services expected to come on stream in 2020 and a positioning accuracy of 10 metres, Galileo is a fine testament to the European space programme's success.

The programme for European Space Week 2018 also includes sessions on topics like smart cities, sustainable land management, interconnectivity, infrastructure management and security and defence. It will be hosting the 'Space Oscars', the annual Galileo and Copernicus Masters awards ceremony that distinguishes the most innovative ideas and brings together investors and entrepreneurs to foster uptake of data and signals from Europe's space programmes.

On the sidelines of the event, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "We have made great strides in recent years and we can all be proud of that. We are working together to develop new and innovative services that are improving our daily lives and driving Europe's economic development. Europe's Copernicus and Galileo flagship programmes are today a feature of our lives, and I would like to thank all of the teams who have worked to make them such a huge success."

1 Global Navigation Satellite Systems

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