

Another Eight Satellites for Galileo Constellation



Europe's Galileo navigation constellation will gain an additional eight satellites, bringing it to completion, thanks to a contract signed today at the Paris Air and Space Show. The contract to build and test another eight Galileo satellites was awarded to a consortium led by prime contractor OHB, with [Surrey Satellite Technology](#) overseeing their navigation platforms.

This is the third such satellite signing: the first four In Orbit Validation satellites were built by a consortium led by [Airbus Defence and Space](#), while production of the next 22 Full Operational Capability (FOC) satellites was led by [OHB](#).

These new batch satellites are based on the already qualified design of the previous Galileo FOC satellites, except for changes on the unit level – such as

improvements based on lessons learned and reacting to obsolescence of parts.

ESA's director of the Galileo Programme and Navigation-related Activities, Paul Verhoef, signed the contract with the CEO of OHB, Marco Fuchs and OHB navigation director Wolfgang Pättsch, in the presence of ESA director general Jan Wörner and the EC's deputy director-general for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Pierre Delsaux.

Infrastructure robustness

This procurement from OHB will enable the completion of the Galileo constellation and have reserves both in-orbit and on-ground, said director Verhoef. This signing delivers the necessary infrastructure robustness that is essential for the provision of Galileo services worldwide.

ESA signed the contract on behalf of the EU represented by the European Commission – Galileo's owner. The Commission and ESA have a delegation agreement by which ESA acts as design and procurement agent on behalf of the Commission.

Galileo is Europe's own satellite navigation system, providing an array of positioning, navigation and timing services to Europe and the world. With 18 satellites now in orbit, Galileo began Initial Services on 15 December 2016, the first step towards full operational capability.

Further launches

Further launches will continue to build the satellite constellation, which will gradually improve the system performance and availability worldwide. The launch by Ariane 5 of another four satellites is due to take place later this year. The full Galileo constellation will consist of 24 operational satellites in three orbital planes plus orbital spares, intended to prevent any interruption in service.

These new eight satellites will provide the constellation with in-orbit and on-ground spares. ESA and the Commission are also in the process of developing an improved Galileo Second Generation for the next decade.

Galileo is now providing three service types, the availability of which will continue to be improved.

Open Service

The Open Service is a free mass-market service for users with enabled chipsets in, for instance, smartphones and car navigation systems. Fully interoperable with GPS, combined coverage will deliver more accurate and reliable positioning for users.

Galileo's Public Regulated Service is an encrypted, robust service for government-authorised users such as civil protection, fire brigades and the police.

The Search and Rescue Service is Europe's contribution to the long-running Cospas-Sarsat international emergency beacon location. The time between someone locating a distress beacon when lost at sea or in the wilderness will be reduced from up to three hours to just 10 minutes, with its location determined to within 5 km, rather than the previous 10 km.

The public will begin benefiting as Galileo-capable devices enter the marketplace: 17 companies, representing more than 95% of global supply, now produce Galileo-ready chips.

<https://www.gim-international.com/content/news/another-eight-satellites-for-galileo-constellation>
