

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ESA awards contract for the development of Galileo User Receivers to consortium led by Septentrio

Leuven, Belgium – ESA has awarded a contract for the C0 phase of the GALILEO Test User Segment to a consortium led by Septentrio, a leading European designer and manufacturer of satellite navigation receivers. Under this contract which is worth almost 3 million EURO, the consortium, which is composed of Septentrio, Rockwell Collins France, QinetiQ, Delft University of Technology, Ursa Minor, OMP, Deimos, SkySoft, Sagem and FDC, will start the work on the development of the first Galileo User Receivers.

Galileo is Europe's global navigation satellite system, expected to be interoperable with GPS and GLONASS, which will provide a highly accurate, guaranteed global positioning service under civilian control. Galileo is expected to be fully operational by 2008 with a constellation of 30 satellites.

The Test User Receivers will be the very first Galileo receivers, which play a crucial role in the development and performance validation of the Galileo system. Because of the different services provided with the Galileo system (Open, Commercial and Safety of Life services), the large number of applications to support and the need for compatibility with existing GNSS services such as GPS and EGNOS, these very advanced receivers will need to support a wide variety of different configurations. At the same time, they will form the basis for early availability of the different types of receivers that will ultimately launch the market for Galileo services.

"This contract is a very important recognition of the technical competence of the consortium organized by Septentrio", says Peter Grogard, Managing Director of Septentrio. "As a European GNSS receiver company, Septentrio has always actively supported European activities in the area of satellite navigation. We are thrilled by the opportunity to lead such a strong team to contribute to the next phase of satellite navigation development in Europe."

DEIMOS is a private company founded in 2001, with DEIMOS Space in Madrid and DEIMOS Engenharia in Portugal, operating in aerospace activities. DEIMOS Space provides a comprehensive set of innovative solutions ranging from Space Mission Analysis, Engineering studies, Ground Segment and On-Board SW, GNSS Processing and Receiver Technology. www.deimos-space.com

Delft University of Technology, by its Mathematical Geodesy and Positioning section, participates in national and international geometric infrastructure, develops models and algorithms, as the LAMBDA method for ambiguity resolution, for high-precision GNSS positioning and meteorology, and performs high-end GNSS receiver testing. www.geo.tudelft.nl/mgp/

France Developpement Conseil (FDC) is an independent research and consultancy firm with offices in Paris and Brussels specialised in the field of satellite navigation and positioning. FDC has an excellent knowledge of all positioning systems and technologies combined with in-depth experience of security issues, institutional aspects, decision-making processes and the industrial environment.

Orban Microwave Products NV (OMP) was established in 1996 as an independent design house, specialized in designing and manufacturing custom wireless RF and microwave systems, as well as patch and parabolic antenna, which are integrated in a wide range of applications serving various markets. www.orbanmicrowave.com

Rockwell-Collins France, subsidiary of the Rockwell Collins, is a company employing 600 people and focusing on engineering, services and sales of products and systems present in three areas: Aeronautics, Defense and Data Communications. Additional information is available on www.rockwellcollins.fr.

QinetiQ is Europe's largest science and technology solutions company and employs nearly 10,000 staff, including many of the UK's leading scientists and internationally acclaimed experts. Founded from the laboratories of the UK Ministry of Defence, today QinetiQ operates in markets as diverse as marine, energy, telecommunications, automotive, rail, electronics, defence, space, health, oil & gas, aerospace and information technology. www.QinetiQ.com

Sagem is an internationally-based high-technology group which enjoyed consolidated sales of EUR 2.763 billion in 2002 and an operating income of €M 130. The second largest French group in the field of telecommunications and the third largest European company in electronics for defence and security, SAGEM maintains a presence in more than twenty countries. SAGEM is Europe's leading manufacturer in inertial systems and third in the world, European leader in optronic systems, world leader in fingerprint-based biometrics, world leader in helicopter flight control and world leader in space optics. www.sagem.com

Septentrio Satellite Navigation NV designs, manufactures, markets, and supports high-end dual-frequency OEM GPS/GNSS receivers for demanding professional navigation, positioning and timing applications. For more information, please visit our website at www.septentrio.com.

SkySoft is a technology provider with almost a decade of experience in the aeronautics, space, and telematics markets. With strong technical expertise, an ISO 9001-2000 certified quality management system, and a strict adherence to the industrial software standards (RTCA DO-178B, ECSS-E40B, etc.) provides the confidence and assurance that is needed by Skysoft clients. For further information, please visit the company website: www.skysoft.pt

Ursa Minor Space & Navigation is an innovative company that specialises in localisation and satellite navigation. Ursa Minor is involved in the definition and development the Galileo Search and Rescue (SAR/Galileo) system. Please find more information at our website: www.ursaminor.nl