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Inauguration of the Galileo Control Centre at DLR

8 September 2008



Galileo Control Centre at DLR site Oberpfaffenhofen

On 8 September 2008, the new building complex for the Galileo Control Centre at the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt; DLR) in Oberpfaffenhofen was formally handed over.

"For the staff of the new Galileo Control Centre, today marks the beginning of the actual preparation phase for the operation of the future European satellite navigation system Galileo", said Professor Johann-Dietrich Wörner, Chairman of the DLR Executive Board. Wörner went on to say: "By operating the Galileo Control Centre, DLR shows how important its Oberpfaffenhofen site is and how significant science can be as an economic factor when it joins forces with political and other partners."

In a festive ceremony, the Berlin-based architectural firm "Schultes Frank Architekten" presented a symbolic key to DLR. The importance of the Galileo project for Europe, Germany and Bavaria was underlined by the attendance of EU Commissioner for Transport Antonio Tajani, Prime Minister Günther Beckstein of the Free State of Bavaria, as well as Bavarian State Minister Emilia Müller and Matthias von Randow, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung).



Formal handover of the Galileo Control Centre

The new control centre, with over 3000 square metres of floor space, was completed after just two years of building work. The fully-equipped building has cost about 100 million euro.

By the time the Galileo satellite navigation system is fully operational, up to 100 engineers and scientists will be working at over 30 control consoles in the control centre in Oberpfaffenhofen. A multinational team is responsible for preparing and operating Galileo. Staff of the other European Galileo Control Centres will also be present in Oberpfaffenhofen so as to ensure close coordination and cooperation.

The Galileo Control Centre in Oberpfaffenhofen is part of the core ground segment. The satellites are controlled and mission data is received through a globally distributed ground station network. The control centre in Oberpfaffenhofen is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure in order to meet the high demands made on the Galileo infrastructure and to ensure failure-free operation for the next 20 years. Important navigational data as well as the reference time which is relevant for all Galileo applications are generated on the ground in the control centres and transmitted to the Galileo satellites via the ground stations.

Related Contacts

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