



DLR and Telespazio confirm responsibility for Galileo operations

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On 1 August 2014, the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt; DLR) and Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, reconfirmed their cooperation for the operation of the European satellite navigation programme Galileo.

Continuity, stability and performance

"DLR is continuing its successful partnership in the Galileo programme with Telespazio. We are thus ensuring stability and continuity for the operation of the Galileo system – both for the present and in the future," stated Johann-Dietrich Wörner, Chairman of the DLR Executive Board.

The Italian-German cooperation is implemented through Spaceopal GmbH joint venture, which is jointly owned by Telespazio and DLR Space Applications (GfR), a wholly owned subsidiary of DLR. Spaceopal has been responsible for the preparation and implementation of overall Galileo operations since 2010.

The tasks of the Spaceopal team include the control of the Galileo satellites, the navigation data processing and monitoring of the worldwide receiving systems. A special feature of the Galileo operation is its implementation using two control centres, one in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany and an identical one in Fucino, Italy.

Strategic importance

The two control centres are already operating four Galileo satellites, and at least two more satellites will follow this year. Galileo is of major strategic importance for the European Union and its Member States. The focus of the programme is therefore the further deployment of the infrastructure and the forthcoming introduction of initial services.

The European Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Agency (GSA) will gradually take over the management of the operational phase of Galileo. DLR GfR and Telespazio are prepared to act with Spaceopal as core partners for the GSA – not only for the operation of the Galileo system, but also with regard to the provision of navigation services for the global user community.

European cooperation

Spaceopal manages the overall operation of the Galileo system. The detailed operational tasks will be carried out by the Galileo control centres in Oberpfaffenhofen (DLR GfR mbH) and in Fucino (Telespazio), along with the European Space Operations Centre (ESOC), the French space agency (CNES) and industry partners Airbus Defence & Space, SES-RSS, British Telecom Global Service, Vitrociset Belgium und T-Systems International.

Galileo is a programme financed by the European Union, mandated by the European Commission and implemented by the European Space Agency (ESA).

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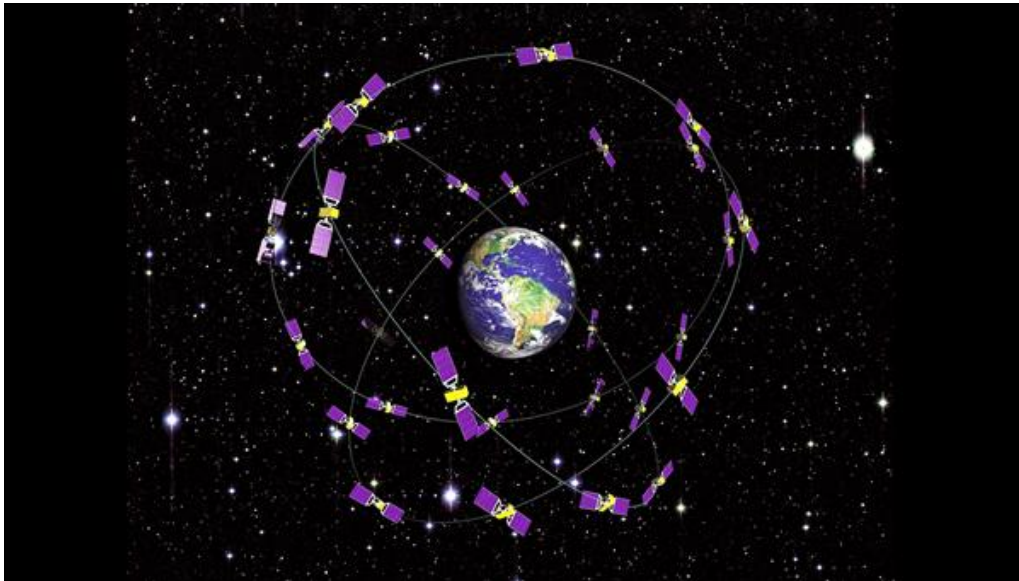
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Galileo constellation



The Galileo system is based on a constellation of 30 navigation satellites.

Credit: DLR (CC-BY 3.0).

Launch of two Galileo satellites



On 12 October 2012, at 20:15 CET, two Galileo satellites were launched from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana on board a Soyuz ST-B. All stages of the Soyuz worked as

planned. The Fregat-MT upper stage delivered the satellites to their orbits, at an altitude of 23,200 kilometres, 3 hours and 45 minutes after lift-off.

Credit: ESA - S. Corvaja, 2012 .

Galileo Control Centre at the DLR Oberpfaffenhofen site



The Galileo Control Centre at the DLR site in Oberpfaffenhofen, near Munich.

Credit: DLR (CC-BY 3.0).

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