

Heading to EGNOS and Galileo for public interest tracking & tracing services

The MENTORE partners welcomed high-level speakers, GNSS experts, standardisation and regulatory bodies, and end-users on 25 November 2008 at the MENTORE event in Brussels. The participants discussed on EGNOS/Galileo opportunities to public interest services and were asked to complete a questionnaire. 19 participants from various stakeholders (industry, public authorities, standardisation bodies, etc.) provided their feedback so far.

Ideas surfaced during the open debate and conclusions from the survey have been compiled in the following White Paper. The goal of this White Paper is to draw a list of priority actions that will constitute the core of the MENTORE roadmap which the project partners will elaborate in 2009.

Listening to the above-mentioned stakeholders, the MENTORE partners highlighted the following items:

1. End users specified that they welcome any system which will provide them guaranteed position services to support compliance to regulations and best practices, and enhance productivity. Thus **end users are willing to adopt new services** and to mobilise their resources when they clearly see the added-value of EGNOS/Galileo.
2. Yet, the **cost** for the initial purchase, operation and maintenance of the devices is a major concern to the end users (e.g transport organisations).
3. End users are aware that **the European satellite navigation system can provide cost-effective services if used as a component of a technology mix**. EGNOS/Galileo added-value depends on the specific application.
4. Acknowledging the fact that standardisation normally requires a long process, the MENTORE partners isolated the necessity of at least a **minimum set of common standards**, to adopt and deploy EGNOS/Galileo-based technologies and services for the regulated market. The European Standards Organisations CEN and ETSI together with the European Commission actively participated in the discussion and provided useful suggestions to MENTORE. CEN suggested considering for EGNOS the **New Approach Standardisation**¹, to ensure that legislation does not become obsolete.
5. During the event the MENTORE partners shared their findings regarding the need for harmonisation and standardisation especially in the case of dangerous goods.
6. The **Galileo authentication function for enhancing tracking services was also discussed** with representatives of the Joint Research Centre. They presented their initiatives related to applications that can benefit from traceability.
7. The GSA confirmed that the **EGNOS Data Access System (EDAS) will be available by 2009**. It will allow to disseminate the EGNOS products in real time and within guaranteed performance boundaries. The MENTORE partners warmly welcomed this news, with some of them expressing their interest in using it within 2009.

¹ <http://www.newapproach.org/>

Based on the analysis of the survey, the following results can be identified:

Participants expressed great interest in “Services for City Logistics” and “Services for Nuclear Transport”, with “Services for e-customs”, and “Services for Dependent Persons Tracking” being mentioned as interesting and “Services for Livestock Management” considered as affecting more niche markets. Other public interest services mentioned for their relevance were: dangerous goods, GNSS tolling, satellite AIS (Automatic Identification System for maritime transport), civil protection, inland waterways, e112 and perishables tracking/cold chain.

As for the maturity of the GNSS technology and its environment, most participants considered technology to be quite advanced but still needing improvement. The market was said to be almost ready, whereas the regulatory framework still needs further improvement.

Some important drivers for the implementation of EGNOS/Galileo-based public interest tracking & tracing services are:

- Harmonisation and standardisation of GNSS system and operational procedures
- Appropriate regulatory framework
- Establishment of a Service Level Agreement with a Service Provider and clarification of its liability
- Availability/Adoption of best practice models, projects and services at European and national level
- Involvement of local and regional authorities
- Promotion of the added value that EGNOS/Galileo offers
- Financial support for implementation allowing competitive market conditions.

By contrast, the participants mentioned the following obstacles for the implementation of the above mentioned EGNOS/Galileo services:

- Further delay of EGNOS and Galileo
- Unclear added value
- Unclear business cases
- Unclear liability scheme
- Financial risk for service providers (high initial investments vs. medium to long-term returns)
- Privacy and data security issues
- Lack of European wide harmonisation and standardisation
- Problems with the guarantee for the service quality.

The question over whether GPS is sufficient for tracking & tracing in public interest services was answered positively by 6 respondents and answered negatively by 12 of them (one survey had no answer to this question). The latter gave integrity, accuracy and guaranteed service level as explanations for their preference of EGNOS/Galileo. The main advantage perceived was integrity of signal.

The MENTORE partners are very interested in hearing the views of other relevant stakeholders and invite you to complete the questionnaire which is available for download on the project website www.gnsstracking.eu.

Coordinated by Telespazio and supported by the European GNSS Supervisory Authority, MENTORE (iMplementation of GNSS tracking & tracing Technologies fOR Eu regulated domains) is a project devoted to introducing EGNOS/Galileo in regulated “Tracking & Tracing” users’ domains.