



Telespazio's Antonella Di Fazio and Cotecna's Mark Miller discuss the next steps for Mentore.

Mentore pilot to continue

Italy's Transport Ministry is to continue tracking radioactive materials with the new Mentore system after the pilot programme for the system ends.

Mentore is a project co-funded by the European Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Supervisory Authority with funds from the European Commission. It is designed to bring a higher level of accuracy to tracking sensitive or dangerous cargoes, such as radioactive fuel, livestock or persons requiring assistance.

The project is being run by the Mentore consortium, which has 18 core partners drawn from six EU nations plus Canada.

Over the past two years the consortium has been operating a series of pilot programmes to test the system, which uses GNSS (and will later use Galileo) as a higher-quality tracking system than the current Global Positioning System (GPS).

GNSS/Galileo provides a signal of greater integrity, said Mark Miller, regional vice-president, European programmes, of supply chain security specialists Cotecna.

"With GPS there are periods of time – perhaps for minutes or longer – where the signal coming from satellites is wrong or goes down. With GNSS/Galileo you constantly know the integrity of that position. You can continually measure its accuracy."

This was essential with high-sensitivity cargoes, such as radioactive fuels, he said, where governments needed to know their position second by second.

Amparo helps pedestrians

A new pedestrian counting system to monitor usage of road crossings is being shown by Swedish company Amparo Solutions.

The system uses infrared sensors to detect pedestrians and transmits the information to a server.

"Normally you don't have a clue as to how many people use a crossing," said Henrik Linell, Amparo's CEO.

"If you know there are just 15 people using a crossing in 24 hours, perhaps you should remove it and move it to another location; if there are a lot of people using it perhaps you should spend more money on it.

"If you don't have the figures, it's very hard to make decisions. I'm not aware of anyone else doing this."

The infrared detectors can be mounted on the pedestrian crossing sign or as standalone units.

Stand Z141

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