

**Syndicated interview with Mr. Pedro Pedreira,  
Executive Director of the European GNSS Supervisory Authority  
on the occasion of the Munich Satellite Navigation Summit,  
6 – 8 March 2007, Munich Germany**

**What is the current situation with the Galileo concession?**

**Pedro Pedreira:**

As you know, before the GSA can do what it was designed to do - that is manage the process of bringing Galileo to its full operational capacity - it must first accomplish an important task: negotiate and conclude a multi-billion Euro concession contract with the private consortium who will implement the deployment and operations of the full Galileo system and commercialise its services. That said, one thing is certain, the GSA is determined to find a way forward. So, what have we done so far and what do we plan to do?

As a new organisation, a great deal of effort has gone into getting the right people in place that can get the job done. Key staff in charge of managing the concession negotiations at the Galileo Joint Undertaking are now part of the GSA team; there's no need to change horses in mid-stream. These core people are now teamed with others who will help bring a fresh perspective to a multifaceted situation.

Since 1 January, when the GSA officially took over business from the GJU, our team has been busy meeting with various partners on a working level to really dissect, uncover and find solutions to the various issues at stake that are delaying the process. While full negotiations are on hold, we are trying to better understand the core reasons for the blockage. This investigation will be very useful once the Galileo operating company is in place with a workable governing structure and we can restart the negotiations on a more solid footing. In the meantime, the GSA is looking into a range of ways to work through these barriers and exploring all kinds of potential solutions - interim and otherwise - that can help us not lose sight of the main goal: getting Galileo up and running as soon as possible.

**If there is no concession agreement in the near future, is Galileo in trouble?**

**Pedro Pedreira:**

There is no denying that this is a highly complex situation. I think we can all agree that we underestimated the intricacies of implementing such an ambitious project. I think it is good to keep in mind what it is that we are creating and what is at stake:

*"Galileo is the largest industrial project ever organised on a European scale, the first European public-private partnership and the first infrastructure owned by the EU. The Galileo system will allow users to pinpoint their location at any time with a high degree of accuracy, and will ensure Europe's global competitiveness, as well as independence, in satellite navigation products and services."*

This is no small task. No pioneering effort ever is. So, yes, Galileo is in trouble if we let the challenges of a pioneering effort stop us from creating what we all know is the right thing for Europe.

Indeed the one thing I believe I can safely say that everyone does agree with is that Galileo is a good thing for Europe: for the economy, for business, for our quality of life, and for our independence. Basically for all the reasons that we have come this far. Galileo is truly a win – win initiative. And anything with this much promise should not be allowed to be “in trouble” for too long because it risks becoming a lose – lose.

I am confident that if the collective will of European political and business initiative is harnessed, we will be able to move beyond this stage, learn from the past and work together to develop and implement a global satellite navigation system that meets our expectations.

### **What is the relationship between Galileo and China? Does the Beidou/Compass system pose a threat to Galileo?**

#### **Pedro Pedreira:**

As a global system Galileo needs partners around the world. The opening up of Galileo to international cooperation will help European industry reach regional and global markets by helping to remove those regulatory barriers which might otherwise exist, as well as securing the support of those regions within various international standardization bodies. Plus, it is a simple fact that international strategic partnerships make industry more globally competitive.

The benefits of international agreements are both political and economic. Galileo becomes the international satellite navigation standard. The international agreements support the worldwide introduction of Galileo, contributing to its development both in Europe and the rest of the world, and ensuring that it becomes a key component in the global infrastructure. These partnerships also enhance the standing of the Europe in the wider global context.

Each regional partner offers different benefits. In the case of China, international cooperation will provide access to the country’s large and highly coveted internal market, as well as its important industrial capabilities.

Through the framework of the 2005 industrial and technical cooperation agreement between the European Union and People's Republic of China, China became a technical partner in the Galileo programme, and China is collaborating with the EU in some aspects of the R&D effort.

While Galileo will be the superior global navigation satellite system when it is operational, we know it will not be the only system. Galileo will be interoperable with the US GPS system and it will most likely be compatible with other nation's systems. The world will have different services for different uses, choice, back-up and healthy competition - all things that are good for everyone and nothing to be afraid of.

## Background

The European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA) was established to manage the public interests and to be the regulatory authority for the European GNSS programmes. The GSA, a Community Agency, officially took over responsibility from the former Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU) on 1 January 2007.

The GSA will:

- Manage the European satellite navigation programmes, control the use of funds, and manage the related R&D activities.
- Be the licensing authority vis-à-vis the concession holder responsible for implementing and managing the Galileo deployment and operation phases and ensure contract compliance;
- Be responsible for matters related to the right to use the frequencies necessary for the operation of the systems, the certification of their components, and their safety and security;
- Own the assets created or developed under the Galileo and EGNOS programmes.

<http://www.gsa.europa.eu>

### For more information:

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