

EU Space Programme Advances: Galileo Emergency Warning Satellite Service to upgrade disaster response

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With the EU Space Programme's unwavering commitment to prioritising end-users, a ground-breaking service is on the horizon – the Galileo Emergency Warning Satellite Service (EWSS). This service, currently in development and testing by the European Commission in collaboration with the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), represents a critical evolution in European safety and well-being.

Rodrigo da Costa, Executive Director of EUSPA, emphasises: "The Galileo Emergency Warning Satellite Service exemplifies our dedication to resilient risk management and response."

What is the Galileo Emergency Warning Satellite Service (EWSS)?

EWSS, an upcoming service of the Galileo constellation, will broadcast alert messages directly to populations threatened by impending natural or manmade disasters. The Galileo satellites will transmit information to smartphones or compatible navigation devices, providing details about the hazard, its severity, onset time, expected duration, and instructions based on the user's location. Alert content, generated by national authorities, will be disseminated through the Galileo constellation.

Rodrigo da Costa adds: "With end-users always at the centre of its action, the EU Space Programme continues to evolve, offering services that contribute to the safety and well-being of European citizens."

The real added value of EWSS: A lifeline for remote regions

EWSS proves particularly valuable in remote and rural European regions with limited or no mobile signal. It becomes a lifesaving asset when terrestrial alert systems face disruptions due to high traffic or damages caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, or fires.

Preparing for operational excellence in 2025

While the service is slated to become operational in 2025, successful tests across different Union sites confirm its rapid response capability. National civil protection agencies have verified that the alert message can be transmitted and received by every user in the danger area in less than 60 seconds.

Once operational, EWSS will be provided free of charge to national civil protection authorities across the EU27. Member States can activate it to disseminate alerts via Galileo satellites, making it a strategic asset supporting EU and Member State disaster management policies.

In anticipation of the 2025 declaration, the European Commission and EUSPA released the Common Alert Message Format Specifications document. This technical document provides critical information on encoding and decoding alert messages within Galileo signals, facilitating the integration of EWSS into national alert systems and navigation devices.

For more information and technical details, [click here](#).

About the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)

The European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) provides safe and secure European satellite navigation services, promotes the commercialization of Galileo, EGNOS, and Copernicus data and services, coordinates the EU's forthcoming governmental satellite communications

programme GOVSATCOM and the EU SST Front Desk. EUSPA is responsible for the security accreditation of all the EU Space Programme components. By fostering the development of an innovative and competitive space sector and engaging with the entire EU Space community, EUSPA contributes to the European Green Deal and digital transition, the safety and security of the Union and its citizens, while reinforcing its autonomy and resilience.

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