



## PRESS RELEASE

## For immediate release

*Prague, 26 July 2018*

### **eCall Satellite navigation certified for first European customers.**

Following the April 1 entry into force of the European eCall regulation, requiring all new car and light van types sold in the EU to be fitted with the emergency systems, Swedish automobile manufacturer Volvo Cars has taken the lead as the first car-maker to equip its vehicles with eCall, which takes advantage of the precise positioning offered by European GNSS - EGNOS and Galileo - to quickly alert emergency services in the event of a road accident.

The eCall device is manufactured by ACTIA Nordic in Sweden and successfully tested by NavCert's eCall Laboratory in Germany. The fast readiness of automotive suppliers and technical services was partially due to actions taken by the European GNSS Agency (GSA) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, who launched a testing campaign and produced a [joint report](#) containing a set of guidelines to facilitate the implementation of eCall testing in compliance with the EU Regulation.

Cars equipped with eCall use the same location source as for their in-vehicle navigation systems. In fact, today just in Europe, around 50,000 cars are on the road already and at the end of this year over 150 000 will be enabled with Galileo satellite navigation capability.

"Bringing the benefits of space technology to end users has always been a core aim of the GSA's market development efforts. We are very happy to see Volvo leading the way in leveraging the precision offered by the European space programs EGNOS and Galileo to make Europe's roads safer for drivers," GSA Executive Director Carlo des Dorides said.

### **What is eCall?**

eCall devices automatically dial the European emergency number 112 to alert rescue services in the event of an accident. The system sends the exact location to responders, along with the time of the incident and the direction of travel, even if the driver is unconscious or unable to make a phone call, thereby reducing the response time for road accidents and saving more lives. An eCall can also be triggered manually by pushing a button in the car, for example by a witness to a serious accident.

eCall only transmits data that is absolutely necessary when an accident occurs. Information only leaves the car in the event of a severe accident and is not stored any [longer than necessary](#).

It is estimated that eCall will speed up emergency response times by 40% in urban areas and 50% in the countryside and reduce the number of fatalities by at least 4% and the number of

#### For more information:

Donna Reay  
Head of Communication  
European GNSS Agency (GSA)  
donna.reay@gsa.europa.eu

Tel. +32 2 298 52 10  
Mobile: +32 498 98 52 10  
[www.gsa.europa.eu](http://www.gsa.europa.eu)



European  
Global Navigation  
Satellite Systems  
Agency

severe injuries by 6%. You can find more information about eCall [here](#).

### **About the European GNSS Agency**

As an official European Union Regulatory Agency, the European GNSS Agency (GSA) manages public interests related to European GNSS programmes. The GSA's mission is to support European Union objectives and achieve the highest return on European GNSS investment, in terms of benefits to users and economic growth and competitiveness.



#### **For more information:**

Donna Reay  
Head of Communication  
European GNSS Agency (GSA)  
donna.reay@gsa.europa.eu

Tel. +32 2 298 52 10  
Mobile: +32 498 98 52 10  
[www.gsa.europa.eu](http://www.gsa.europa.eu)