

EUSPA inaugurates new Galileo Security Monitoring Facilities in Spain

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The new Galileo Security Monitoring Centre facilities were inaugurated today in Saint Martin de la Vega in the presence of the Spanish Ministry of Defence. The upgraded back-up facilities will ensure full redundancy in terms of security for Europe's global navigation system, Galileo.



On Friday 30 September 2022, María Amparo Valcarce García, Secretary of State for Defence of Spain together with the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) and the European Commission inaugurated a new facility for its Galileo Security Monitoring Centre (GSMC) in Saint Martin de la Vega, Spain. The centre serves as a backup site to the GSMC located in Saint-Germain-en-Laye (France).

The GSMC executes a specific function within EUSPA in ensuring that the Galileo infrastructure is adequately protected. It provides around-the-clock monitoring of the Galileo system's security. The purpose of this monitoring is to detect accidental or deliberate security events that could result in a disruption of services.

The new facilities are located in a secure area inside the La Marañosa Campus, part of the National Institute of Aerospace Technology (INTA).

Protecting Galileo equals European autonomy

"In times of crises, having access to space is of utmost importance for us Europeans. The new GSMC facilities in Spain are a key element to ensure that Galileo is not only the world's most precise satellite navigation system but also the safest and most secure" highlights EUSPA Executive Director, Rodrigo da Costa. "The centre has the competence to be extended to other Space Programme's components," he concluded.

The Galileo Security Monitoring Centre (GSMC) is an integral part of the Galileo infrastructure

responsible for monitoring and responding to security threats and alerts, and the overall operational status of systems components. For Public Regulated Services (PRS), the Centre is the interface with governmental entities for cryptographic keys requests. The GSMC also oversees the content of security messages broadcast by Galileo satellites and supports the European External Action Service on the security of systems operated under the Union Space Programme.

“In the event of a security threat to the security of systems and services deployed, operated and used under the Union Space Programme which may affect the security of the Union, the European Council issues specific instructions to EUSPA, which the GSMC is responsible for implementing,” explained Philippe Rosius, Head of GSMC.

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 and coordinates the EU’s forthcoming governmental satellite communications programme GOVSATCOM. 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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