

PRESS RELEASE

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Successful Launch of Galileo L14 Strengthens Europe's Satellite Navigation Capabilities

The successful launch of Galileo L14 marks another key milestone for the European Union's flagship satellite navigation system, reinforcing the programme's mission to deliver safe, secure and world-leading navigation services to millions of users worldwide. As the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), the agency plays both an operational and strategic role in ensuring the continued success and evolution of Galileo.

EUSPA takes command shortly after liftoff

Following separation from the launch vehicle, EUSPA is responsible for satellite operations as part of the Launch and Early Orbit Phase (LEOP), one of the most critical stages of any space mission.

Nearly 4 hours after launch, the EUSPA team, supported by SPO and ESA, took command from the Galileo Control Centre in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany. Their first checks confirmed communication with the satellites, correct orbital release and successful solar panel deployment, reaching the "holding point".

Over the next days, engineers will run continuous subsystem tests and carry out the manoeuvres needed to guide each spacecraft to its final orbit at 23,220 kilometres. LEOP, together with payload testing, will last around 3 months.

Once fully tested, commissioned and accredited, the satellites will join the operational Galileo constellation, further improving service availability and robustness. They will then be monitored 24/7 by the Galileo Security Monitoring Centre to ensure operational security and protect the system, a core part of EUSPA's mission.

A strategic mission for the European Union

Beyond operations, EUSPA ensures that Galileo's performance evolves with market needs and that European companies can seize new opportunities. Satellite navigation already enables advances in mobility, drones, precision agriculture, urban planning, emergency response, climate monitoring and many digital services. With the global GNSS downstream market expected to reach €580 billion by 2033, EUSPA's role in supporting European innovators is increasingly important.

"Each successful launch reinforces the European Union's commitment to providing reliable and secure satellite navigation services. With Galileo L14, we add another building block that supports Europe's future innovation, competitiveness and resilience." EUSPA Executive Director Rodrigo da Costa.

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

EUSPA provides safe and secure European satellite navigation services, promotes the commercialisation 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 green and digital transition, the safety and security of the Union and its citizens, while reinforcing its autonomy and resilience.

Press contact:

Marie Ménard, EUSPA Senior Communications Officer

marie.menard@euspa.europa.eu

Mobile: +420 602 619 776