GOVSATCOM is a European Commission initiative, launched as part of the EU Space Programme. It aims at ensuring the long-term availability of reliable, secure and cost-effective governmental satellite communication services. Our world is subject to an evolving political and security context, coupled to the increasing effects of climate change. The European Union and Member State public authorities entrusted with security-related activities are thus confronted with increasingly diverse, frequent and severe threats.

The primary users of GOVSATCOM will be the public actors involved in:

- Crisis management;
- Border and maritime surveillance;
- Management of critical infrastructures and diplomatic communication networks.

To perform their missions, they need access to trusted and reliable communication means, including in remote regions where ground-based communication systems are not available, or in situations where they are disrupted or unreliable due to a major natural disaster or to an ill-intentioned act. While satellite communications are the best possible solution to face such situations, the public actors responsible for security-related activities have specific needs which cannot be met by commercial services, or not at an affordable cost.
GOVSATCOM FOR CRISIS MANAGEMENT

GOVSATCOM will provide both military and civilian responders with:

• Guaranteed communication services enabling audio/video communication.
• Data exchange between the teams in the field, with their rear bases and with their command & control centres.

GOVSATCOM FOR BORDER AND MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

GOVSATCOM will guarantee:

• Near real-time distribution of information from surveillance platforms and sensors to border and maritime surveillance agencies.
• Connectivity between EU authorities, national authorities and mobile patrols.

GOVSATCOM FOR KEY INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

GOVSATCOM will support:

• EU and Member States’ diplomatic networks with an access to reliable and secure satellite communications independent from the hosting state, anywhere in the world.
• Key infrastructure managers with appropriate communication services when these are critical to their activities.

GOVSATCOM is also expected to be a key enabler for:

• The implementation of security-related services in the Arctic regions.
• The operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) and communication with their onboard sensors.
• Machine-to-Machine communications for applications where security is at stake.