

Success of GALILEO: Growth of European downstream industry



“It is the year 2030.

EU is thriving. European GNSS (satellite navigation) with Galileo is fully operational – and has been for nearly ten years now. Many of the societal challenges of the 21st century have found their successful solution in great part thanks to an innovative European downstream industry and the multiple and diverse services delivered by Galileo.



The range of successes is extensive and I will only mention a few:

Intelligent, precision farming eliminating waste and optimising use of agriculture to increase crop yields – tackling rising global and regional demand for food. GNSS trackers help take care of vulnerable people in an ageing society. Galileo facilitates civil protection operations in harsh environments, speed up rescue operations for people in distress, and provide tools for coastguards and border control authorities. Autonomous solutions for ships and self-driving cars have revolutionised transportation of goods with respect to green solutions, efficiency and safety. Smart Cities, incorporating GNSS with Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) have revolutionised the way we live our urban lives. And, the “Autonomous Drone Light Cargo Distribution”,

the “Urban Air Mobility” solution incorporating an innovative, artificial intelligence, drone traffic control system from European leading companies has captured this global market.

In hindsight, all of this really look like science fiction. It is amazing what has happened the past 10-12 years and how it has contributed to an increased quality of life for European citizens.

And, speaking of quality of life – the majority of these examples are coming from European companies with an astonishing number of attractive jobs. “Everybody” wants to have a job in these successful, high-tech, European companies.

So, how did this amazing transformation come about? 15 years ago, we thought we had lost most of these opportunities to Asian and American companies.

I think a decisive moment for this transformation was in 2018 when European politicians realised that they had to make a more substantial effort to change things. EC and GSA had made the most out of their tiny budgets but it was simply not sufficient for developing Europe when competing with Asia, America and the other players.

At that time Europe had made the necessary commitments to complete the Galileo infrastructure and the



political leaders understood the necessity to boost downstream before it was too late.



Europe had established “A Space Strategy for Europe”. This was used as the basis accompanied by substantial earmarked funds for implementing the radical change in cooperation with the Galileo programme stakeholders and European GNSS downstream industry to win this race. That was the decisive moment that ultimately has put Europe in the lead. And we are still leading this global race.”

Europe 2018

The global GNSS downstream market is one of the most promising markets for European growth, with an annual growth rate of about 7%. The objective for Europe is to capture 33% of this market by 2025 resulting in 400,000 additional jobs – bringing the total to 1,000,000 jobs. Europe must engage at political level to make this happen. This means funding at a strategic level of €2-3 billion dedicated to the development of GNSS services and applications earmarked in the 2021-2028 MFF. Moreover, EU/GSA must enlarge its downstream funding by at least €100 million/year in the period 2018-2020.



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