



AFRICAN UNION



EUROPEAN UNION



**African, Caribbean and
Pacific Group of States
(ACP Group)**

PRESS RELEASE

21 February 2013

“Introduction of GNSS/EGNOS¹ in Africa, Capacity Building for Satellite Navigation Services in Africa” SAFIR Project

ASECNA (Agence pour la Sécurité de la Navigation Aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar) in consortium with **Egis**, **Pildo Labs** and **ESSP** have been designated by the **ACP Group** (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) to implement the SAFIR Project, funded by the European Commission through the 10th EDF Intra-ACP envelope, with the objective of building capacity within African ACP countries for the future deployment of GNSS/EGNOS in the region. The fund is secured within the framework of the EU-Africa common Strategy adopted in 2005 and the Joint EU-Africa Partnership established in December 2007.

The **SAFIR** (Satellite navigation services for **AF**rican **R**egion) project will last two years and will cover the set-up, staffing and operations of an EGNOS-Africa Joint Programme Office (JPO) with a proper regional participation of the various beneficiary countries. The missions of the future JPO will be to define the baseline and oversee the subsequent implementation phase for the specification and procurement of the development and deployment of GNSS/EGNOS in Africa.

The personnel of the JPO would include ten staff members recruited during the two years of SAFIR implementation phase through a clear selection criteria and procedures approved by the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission.

SAFIR will also set up and support a number of technical Working Sessions composed of regional stakeholders concerned with GNSS/EGNOS in sub-Saharan Africa, which will address all aspects of EGNOS-Africa system development and service provision in preparation of the infrastructure

¹ Global Navigation Satellite System/European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service

deployment phase, including system performance, applications, certification policy, industrial issues, maintenance, liability policy, governance structure ...

The training of the JPO staff, together with the provision of a testing platform, is provided under a sister project which is undertaken by the UNESCO/ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) in Trieste (Italy).

Several studies of the implementation of SBAS (Satellite Based Augmentation System) services in Africa have been carried out and have indicated robust and undeniable social and economic benefits in many sectors (transport, land management, oil and mining industry ...) and especially in aviation: safety improvement, better control coverage, opening of new routes, reduction of transport costs...

The **SAFIR** Project, housed in the ASECNA offices of Dakar, is run by an Implementation Team of three Key Experts who are supported by Short Term Experts from the consortium members, in charge of the Working Sessions facilitation.

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Additional information and reference documents on the implementation of SBAS in Africa are available on: <http://www.gnss-africa.org/>

Note to Editors:

ASECNA:

ASECNA is a public organisation endowed with an international status, having 18 Member States* and vested with the responsibility of cooperative management of an airspace of 16,1 million km² (1,5 time the area covered by Europe). With air navigation safety as its main mission, ASECNA is a recognised model for autonomous, cooperative and transnational management of airspace, widely promoted by the international community.

* Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Togo

Egis:

Egis is a consulting and engineering group working in the fields of transport, urban development, construction, industry, water, environment and energy. In the road and airport fields, the group is also involved in project financing, turnkey-contract projects and facility operation.

In the air transportation sector Egis offers cutting-edge products and services to the air traffic management, airport and air operations industries. The company's expertise ranges from consulting and engineering services to the provision of turnkey solutions. Egis has been developing a specific expertise in aviation-related GNSS applications and connected services with recent activities in standardization, GNSS systems performance analysis, definition of concept of operations, support to operational implementation, etc.

Pildo Labs:

Founded in 2001, Pildo Labs is an engineering company specialized in delivering top of the edge technology within the aeronautics and space sectors. PildoLabs is recognized as one of the main players for the development of advanced Air Navigation products and services enhanced by Satellite Navigation or GNSS (basic GPS or EGNOS, GBAS augmentations). Such leadership is the result from company involvement since the very beginning in most research and strategic programmes for the implementation of new enhanced novel operations through satellite technology. Pildo Labs played a key role within the approval process for EGNOS Safety of Life service, and is continuously supporting aviation community throughout its operational implementation.

ESSP:

ESSP has been founded in 2009 by the air navigation services providers from France (DGAC/DSNA), Germany (DFS), Italy (ENAV), Portugal (NAV-P), Spain (Aena), Switzerland (Skyguide) and UK (NATS) to act as service Provider for EGNOS, the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service. The European Commission (EC) owns the EGNOS system and manages the EGNOS programme. ESA is the EGNOS design agent under a delegation agreement with the EC.