



EUROPEAN UNION



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

PRESS RELEASE

18th of March 2015

The EGNOS¹ -Africa Joint Programme Office (JPO) has been officially launched

The **SAFIR²** (Satellite navigation services for **AF**rican **R**egion) project which is part of the Africa-EU long term strategic partnership to enhance safety in air transport and whose global objective is to build capacity within African ACP countries for the future deployment of GNSS/EGNOS in the region **is pleased to announce the official launching ceremony of the EGNOS-Africa Joint Programme Office (JPO) and the laying of the first stone of its future offices Building.**

The ceremony took place in Dakar on the 3rd of March 2015 in the presence **of Mr Matthias Petschke, Director, EU Satellite Navigation Programmes, Mrs Karolina Stasiak, from UE Delegation in Sénégal and Mr Amadou Ousmane Guittèye, Director General of ASECNA.**

The ceremony was attended by high ranking officials from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (**ICAO**), the African Civil Aviation Commission (**AFCAC**) , the Agence Nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie (**ANACIM**) , the Aéroports du Sénégal (**ADS**) and the **Local Authorities.**

Opening the ceremony, Mr Ladislaus MATINDI, Director of the JPO, appreciated the contribution of the programme Stakeholders and their invaluable support to the EGNOS Programme. He reiterated the JPO commitment to ensure EGNOS is implemented in Africa in a coordinated and efficient manner.

¹ European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service

² The SAFIR project is a three-year project funded by the European Union and financed from the 10th EDF Intra ACP envelope with EUR 3.7 M. SAFIR has been awarded by the ACP Group of States to an International Consortium led by ASECNA (Agence pour la Sécurité de la Navigation Aérienne en Afrique et à Madagascar) with Egis, Pildo Labs and ESSP

On his side, Mr Matthias Petschke, EU Satellite Navigation Programmes Director, stated:

Satellite navigation can bring huge societal benefits, be it in transport, in agriculture or land management. Satellite based augmentation systems in particular, like EGNOS, can bring enormous social and economic benefits. I attach therefore great importance to the setting up of the EGNOS Africa Joint Programme Office and am particularly pleased to see this team of African experts who have extensive experience and knowledge to support the development of an African satellite based augmentation system.

Delivering his speech, Mr Guittèye, Director General of ASECNA, stated that *“the first mission of the JPO is to ensure Africa has developed adequate competencies and then to coordinate the implementation of the development and of the deployment of GNSS/EGNOS services and applications in the Continent. The EGNOS-Africa Joint Programme Office (JPO) is a pan-African entity that acts for the benefit of Africa and supports Stakeholders in their GNSS/EGNOS strategy, developments and implementation”*.

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Note to Editors:

SAFIR

The SAFIR project is funded by the European Union and has started on 15 January 2013. It covers the set-up, staffing and operations of an EGNOS-Africa Joint Programme Office (JPO) with a proper regional participation of the various beneficiary countries. SAFIR also sets up and supports a number of technical Working Sessions composed of regional stakeholders concerned with GNSS/EGNOS in sub-Saharan Africa.

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.