



The Galileo Geodetic Service Provider (GGSP) prototype: status and expectations

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The European Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Galileo is going to be built up within the next years. A first test satellite has been started at the end of last year, a second start is scheduled for April 2006. The In-Orbit-Validation phase with a certain number of operative satellites is planned to begin mid 2008.

The Galileo Geodetic Service Provider (GGSP) is a project funded within the sixth framework programme of the European Union. A consortium of various institutions with long-term expertise in the field of Geodesy in general and specifically in terrestrial reference frame matters has been established to build a prototype for the development of the Galileo Terrestrial Reference Frame (GTRF) and the establishment of a service with products and information for the potential users.

The terrestrial reference frame is an important backbone for a GNSS. The consortium has to realise the GTRF and to ensure that the GTRF will coincide with the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) within a certain limit for the lifetime of the whole navigation system.

The presentation gives an overview about the first steps, main topics, expected results and future expectations. The strategy in principle will be presented, the network of the individual parts will be shown. Steps for the transfer from the prototype to the permanent GGSP will be outlined as well as the potential users will be addressed.