



press release

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Galileo gets a global Vision The Chinese National Remote Sensing Center (NRSCC) becomes a Member of the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU)

Today at 1:30 p.m. local time the Executive Director of the GJU Mr. Rainer Grohe and the Acting Director of the NRSCC Mr. ZHANG Guocheng signed the Agreement in Beijing whereby the NRSCC becomes a member of the GJU. Vice-President of the Commission Loyola de Palacio and the Chinese Minister XU Guanhua also attended the signature ceremony.

Rainer Grohe, Executive Director of the GJU, is enthusiastic about the Chinese participation. “This is a major step towards making Galileo a truly global infrastructure. China’s active participation in Galileo activities will contribute to developing worldwide markets and facilitate the development and growth of Galileo applications’ markets, in particular location based services”.

China has committed to contribute EUR 200 million to the Galileo Programme. The Chinese side will participate to the development phase with their own technical contributions. The concrete activities, which will be funded by Chinese contributions, will be defined shortly and GJU and ESA will conclude the contracts with Chinese companies.

Grohe says: “I am very happy that with the Chinese NRSCC for the first time an undertaking will become a member of the GJU and moreover from a non-European country. I am convinced that both sides may benefit from each others’ expertise and that the Chinese participation will trigger closer cooperation between European and Chinese industries.”

Grohe believes that this concrete Chinese participation in the GJU will serve as a model for other countries to follow. **“I am indeed expecting other interested entities to join the GJU soon”.** Official negotiations have started with an Israeli undertaking. India, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Ukraine have been showing a keen interest to be involved in Galileo.

The Chinese NRSCC coordinates the national remote sensing science policies and activities and it is in charge of international cooperation. It has concluded cooperation arrangements with over 20 foreign agencies and international organisations.



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The European Union itself concluded an agreement with China in 2003 on the overall participation of China in the Galileo programme. In this agreement the participation of a Chinese entity in the Galileo Joint Undertaking was welcomed. The European cooperation with China in satellite navigation also got an impetus last year when a Training and Cooperation Centre was created in Beijing.

Background:

GALILEO, the European satellite radio navigation programme is global in scope. It will be financed by both public and private funds, given that the growth prospects of the products and services' markets connected with satellite radio navigation are considerable, hence the reason for choosing to manage and operate the system in the form of a concession as part of a public-private partnership.

The concession period for the system covers the deployment phase and the operational phase. The private-sector concessionaire will be responsible for managing these phases in compliance with contractual terms to be established with the preferred bidder in 2005, and will be overseen by a public body, the Galileo Supervisory Authority as per Council Regulation 1321/2004 of 12 July 2004.

For more information about Galileo, please visit:

<http://www.galileoju.com>

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/

<http://www.esa.int/esaNA/index.html>