

Galileo: Negotiations to start with Norway, Argentina and South Korea

On 18 July 2005 the Council approved the recommendations of the European Commission to start negotiations on a cooperation agreement with Norway, Argentina and South Korea on the development of a Civil Global Navigation Satellite system (GNSS).

Norway participates since the 90s to the technical development on Galileo through the European Space Agency and the negotiations with the Commission aim at associating Norway also to the political management of the Galileo programme.

The Commission intends to start the negotiations in the autumn. Norway has created know-how in selected navigation technology applications. Norwegian scientists conduct research focusing on the specific requirements to navigation in the northern latitudes.

For information on Argentina and South Korea see press releases on 4 April, 24 May respectively.

International cooperation on GALILEO is developing rapidly. Agreements have already been signed or initialled with China, Israel and Ukraine while discussions are under way with India, Russia, Morocco, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Malaysia and Australia. Moreover, the signature of the EU/US agreement on 26 June 2004 confirmed the full interoperability and compatibility between GALILEO and GPS and laid down the world standard for civil satellite navigation.