

# ESA to certify first Galileo position fixes worldwide

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Galileo is Europe's global navigation satellite system, providing a highly accurate, guaranteed global positioning service under civil control. It is interoperable with GPS and Glonass, the US and Russian satnav systems, respectively. Credit: ESA – P. Carril

To mark the first anniversary of Galileo's historic first satnav positioning measurement, ESA plans to award certificates to groups who picked up signals from the four satellites in orbit to perform their own fixes.

In 2011 and 2012 the first four satellites were launched – the minimum number needed for [navigation](#) fixes.

On 12 March 2013, Galileo's space and ground elements came together for the first time to perform the historic first determination of a ground location – the Navigation Laboratory of ESA's Technical Centre in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.

From this point, generation of navigation messages enabled full testing of the entire Galileo system – not just by ESA and its industry and institutional partners but also by any entity with a customised satnav receiver.

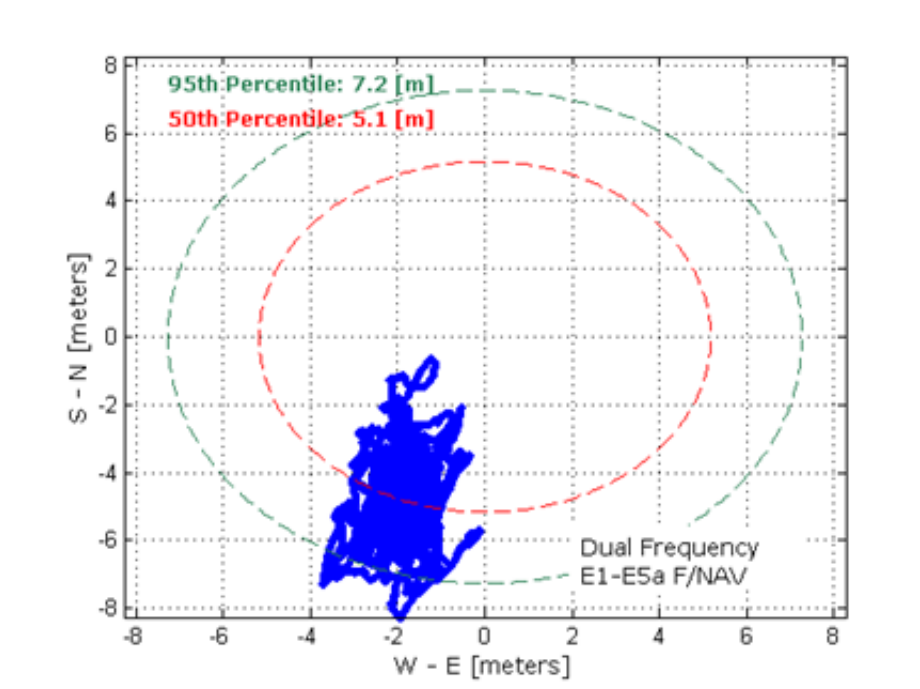
ESA's Galileo team heard about position fixes carried out by organisations and companies all over Europe and beyond, including as far away as Vietnam.

A year on, ESA will recognise these Galileo pioneers with commemorative certificates to the first 50 entities who document their achievement of a past or present fix. Details of how to apply are provided here.

The first Galileo services are scheduled to begin later this year, as more satellites are delivered into orbit.

The next launches will occur in the second half of this year, each with two satellites aboard a Soyuz ST-B. They will take place in close

succession to build up the constellation.



Dual-frequency Galileo positioning performance during the In-Orbit Validation phase: Galileo’s observed dual-frequency positioning accuracy is an average 8 m horizontal and 9 m vertical (95% of the time). Its average timing accuracy is 10 nanoseconds on average – and its performance set to sharpen as more satellites are launched and ground stations come on line. Credit: ESA

Many satnav receiver chips are already technically 'Galileo ready', requiring only software upgrades from their manufacturer to begin working with Galileo signals along with the US GPS and other international satnav systems.

Provided by European Space Agency

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