

Europe's Galileo GPS system back after six-day outage

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Galileo satellites, the EU's rival to the US GPS system, are back online after a six-day failure

Europe's Galileo satellite navigation system, a rival of the American GPS network, is back in service after a six-day outage, its oversight agency

said on Thursday.

"Commercial users can already see signs of recovery of the Galileo [navigation](#) and timing services, although some fluctuations may be experienced until further notice," the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency said in a statement.

The system of 22 orbiting satellites, which helps to pinpoint and track mobile telephone users and vehicles, began experiencing problems last Friday.

Only the search and rescue function, which helps locate boat crews or hikers in distress, was unaffected.

The European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency said the problem was due to an equipment malfunction in the ground control centres that make time and orbit predictions for the satellites.

Galileo has been in a pilot phase since December 2016 and devices that use its signal should be able to switch to GPS or Glonass, the Russian [satellite](#) navigation system.

It is due to become fully operational next year, offering a civilian, European alternative to the US and Russian-controlled networks.

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