

Symposium Report

International Symposium on Certification of GNSS Systems and Services CERGAL 2009 in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, 18 - 20 March 2009

The DLR-German Aerospace Centre, Oberpfaffenhofen located in the heart of the dynamic aerospace-focused region just outside Munich with the recently opened Galileo Control Centre provided perfect conference facilities and an attractive and very relevant host location for this year's CERGAL symposium. A further top event was the excursion to the Galileo Test and Development Environment (GATE) in Berchtesgaden.

It is no surprise that some 60 delegates from 9 European Union States participated in the fifth CERGAL symposium since 2005, when the series of these conferences were started by the German Institute of Navigation - DGON. This year's conference was again jointly organised by DGON and GZVB, the Braunschweig centre for traffic, transport, and telematics solutions.

The opening by the Symposium Chairman, Jürgen Seybold, who set the scene, was followed by presentations focusing on GNSS simulation, testing tools and infrastructure including certification of equipment and services.



Audience



Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Seybold

The academic sessions were complemented by a visit to the in-house GNSS simulator and by exhibitions from EADS Astrium GmbH, Spirent Communications PLC/Lange Electronics GmbH, IFEN GmbH, TeleConsult Austria GmbH, the GAUSS Project Team and CREASO GmbH.

In his closing remarks the Symposium Chairman, Jürgen Seybold, forwarded many thanks to the participants, the exhibitors, and the CERGAL sponsors.

He pointed out that CERGAL again provided an excellent platform for discussions on the special topic of certification across the different technical and application domains.

Very significant of CERGAL 2009 was that the contributions focused on EGNOS and Aviation certification and of course the special topic of testing infrastructure and simulation tools. Other domains like rail, road, ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems), logistics, and security were present but not dominant.

Galileo system aspects and maritime applications were unfortunately missing. To some extent this can be explained as on the one hand EC/GSA is concentrating most of their efforts with highest priority on EGNOS and on the other hand EGNOS is not of main importance to the maritime domain.

As a consequence the participants asked the CERGAL organisers to

- a) get in contact with other SBAS (Space-based Augmentation Systems) providers in order to establish exchange of information on certification and to invite them to use CERGAL as an exchange platform

- b) get in contact with EC/GSA in order make them once again aware of the importance of Galileo certification aspects for the application domains and to reinforce the Galileo system certification aspects also for CERGAL

CERGAL was strongly supported by the symposium sponsors GAUSS Project Team, EADS Astrium GmbH, IFEN GmbH, NavCert GmbH, Spirent Communications PLC/Lange Electronics GmbH, TeleConsult Austria GmbH, and UIC (Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer).



Participants in front of Galileo Control Centre



Visit to GATE

Planning for CERGAL 2010 has already started: Within the MoU of the Federal States of Niedersachsen, Bavaria, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern it will be held in Braunschweig Germany, March/April 2010 and the GNSS certification experts are cordially invited to attend again!