

Second Galileo Demonstration Satellite Launched

Asnaes, Denmark April 2008

The second Galileo demonstrator satellite was lofted into a medium altitude orbit around the earth by a Soyuz/Fregat rocket departing from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 27 April 2008. Like its predecessor, GIOVE-A, launched in December 2005, this second satellite, nominated GIOVE-B, will make use of a Norspace-built Frequency Generator and Up-converter Unit (FGUU).

The 500 kg GIOVE-B satellite was built by a European industrial team led by Astrium GmbH, with Thales Alenia Space performing integration and testing in Rome. Two years after the highly successful GIOVE-A mission, this latest satellite will continue the demonstration of critical technologies for the navigation payload of future operational Galileo satellites.

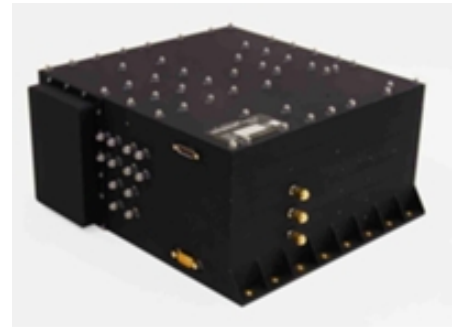
Like its predecessor, GIOVE-B carries two redundant small-size rubidium atomic clocks, each with a stability of 10 nanoseconds per day. But it also features an even more accurate payload: the Passive Hydrogen Maser (PHM), with stability better than 1 nanosecond per day. The first of its kind ever to be launched into space, this is now the most stable clock operating in earth orbit. Two PHMs will be used as primary clocks onboard operational Galileo satellites, with two rubidium clocks serving as back-up.

Signal generation units will provide representative Galileo signals on three separate frequencies, generated by the FGUU supplied by Norspace, broadcast via an L-band phase array antenna designed to entirely cover the visible earth below the satellite.

Flux is manufacturing magnetic components for Norspace and has also been selected by CRISA, MIER SAAB, TAS & Terma for their equipment.

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Norspace, FGUU