

Nerviano, 5 August 2010

SELEX Galileo signs a contract with Surrey Satellite Technology to provide PHM atomic clocks for the Galileo satellite system

SELEX Galileo, a Finmeccanica Company, has signed a contract for more than €30M with Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL), Galileo Full Operating Capability (FOC) Payload Contractor, to provide the Company's Passive Hydrogen MASER (PHM) atomic clocks for the Galileo FOC navigation satellites, a programme of and funded by the European Union .

SELEX Galileo is the prime contractor for the PHM with Swiss company SpectraTime as subcontractor. The PHM clocks are to be installed on each of the 14 satellites in the Galileo system.

The Passive Hydrogen MASER is the most stable clock ever produced for space applications with a frequency stability better than 10^{-14} day, and is currently demonstrating outstanding performance on board the Galileo GIOVE B pre-operational satellite.

8 PHMs are already being integrated into the payloads of the first 4 satellites of the Galileo IOV navigation system, each satellite being equipped with 2 PHMs as a master clock. The frequency stability of the PHMs will guarantee the precision required by the Galileo system for more than 8 hours without any correction or upload from the ground.

Fabrizio Giulianini, Deputy CEO of SELEX Galileo, said "The success of this unique product and the recognition of its outstanding performance is a demonstration of SELEX Galileo's technological excellence in the development of Space equipment and payloads."

Notes to editors

The Passive Hydrogen Maser is one of the most stable radio frequency generators available today. It is used as reference timekeeper to measure distance and positions in navigation systems. Its stability is better than 0,00000036 seconds in one year, equivalent to 1 second every 3 millions years.

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