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THE EUROPEAN GEOSTATIONARY NAVIGATION OVERLAY SERVICE (EGNOS)

Abstract

The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS), Europe's first venture into satellite navigation, improves the open public service offered by the USA's GPS. EGNOS makes GPS suitable for safety critical applications such as flying aircraft or navigating ships through narrow channels. Known as a satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) EGNOS provides both correction and integrity information about the GPS system, delivering opportunities for Europeans to use the more accurate positioning data for improving existing applications or developing a wide range of new ones. EGNOS offers three services (Open Service, Safety-of-life Service and EDAS). As EGNOS provides an unprecedented level of accuracy and reliability, new services can be developed in a wide range of market segments (maritime, railway, agriculture...) for safety and non-safety-critical applications.