First broadcast of SBAS test signal in the Caribbean, Central America and South America

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) check out in-situ the technology presented by the companies GMV and Inmarsat in San Carlos de Bariloche on 15th October 2010

Madrid, 21st October 2010

GMV, one of the world leading companies in satellite navigation systems, and Inmarsat (LSE:ISAT), the leading provider of global mobile satellite communications services, announced the successful integration of their technologies resulting in the broadcast of a satellite-based navigation test signal covering the Caribbean, Central and South America for the first time.

GMV and Inmarsat collaborated on the development, which involved integrating their different technologies. GMV contributed its new SBAS processing centre, magicSBAS, which accepts real-time data from any place in the world; while Inmarsat provided its SBAS signal generator and the space capacity – the navigation transponder on the Inmarsat-3F4 positioned over the Americas region.

The demonstration of a Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) in test mode took place last week in front of representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). With the support of Universidad Nacional de La Plata and ANAC (Administración Nacional de Aviación Civil) in Argentina, the test signal was presented to delegations of the countries involved in the SACCSA project managed by ICAO and technically coordinated by AENA. For years, ICAO has supported and fostered the provision of a specific SBAS in the Caribbean, Central and South America regions, and this initiative is a huge step towards this objective. The actual feasibility analysis of a SBAS in the region is currently performed within the SACCSA project, paying particular attention to the ionospheric aspects.
The purpose of the transmission was to complete the integration of magicSBAS with Inmarsat GEO payloads and to show that the provision of SBAS test signals is affordable with minimum infrastructure investments. The presented technology constitutes a fundamental asset for those entities considering the deployment of an SBAS in any region.

GMV is a privately owned technology business group founded in 1984 and trading on a worldwide scale in the following sectors: Aerospace, Defense and Security, Transport, Telecommunications and IT for public administration and large corporations. In 2009 it chalked up a revenue of 100 million Euros and more than 1000 employees. The company’s growth strategy is based on continual innovation; 10% of its turnover is plowed back into R&D. GMV hence ranks fifth among all Spanish firms in terms of returns on the European Community’s Sixth Framework Program for Research and Technological Development and holds several international patents. GMV is currently the world’s top supplier of ground control systems (GCS) for commercial telecommunications operators; as a firm it boasts Europe’s third biggest participation by volume in Galileo; it is the main supplier of C3I command and control systems to the Spanish army and the nation’s top supplier of telematic systems for public transport. In the ICT sector it is a national benchmark as provider of advanced IP network security solutions and services, mobility applications and applications for the public sector and the development of e-Government.

Inmarsat plc (LSE: ISAT) is the leading provider of global mobile satellite communications services. Since 1979, Inmarsat has been providing reliable voice and high-speed data communications to governments, enterprises and other organizations, with a range of services that can be used on land, at sea or in the air. The company’s services are delivered through a global network of more than 400 distribution partners and service providers operating in 100 countries. For the year ended 31 December 2009, Inmarsat plc had total revenue of US$1,038.1 million (2008: US$996.7 million) with an EBITDA of US$594.2 million (2008: US$531.2 million). For more information, please visit www.inmarsat.com.

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Test signal navigation performance as measured from a receiver in Brazil.

Satellite monitoring for the period from 10:00 to 15:30 UTC