

European Satellite Navigation Competition 2016

Awarding Galileo Enabled Applications

From 1 April to 30 June 2016, the European Satellite Navigation Competition (ESNC) - the largest international competition for the commercial use of satellite navigation - will once again be looking for outstanding ideas and business models. Renowned institutions and regional partners are set to award prizes worth a total of EUR 1 million in more than 25 categories.

In our modern, data-driven economy, satellite navigation is a crucial technology that facilitates constant and reliable object localisation - the bedrock of the Internet of Things. Since 2004, the ESNC has evolved into a leading fixture in the New Space Economy by providing a public innovation platform for turning promising ideas into market-ready products. Each year, the competition unveils new trends and more than 500 business ideas. It has already awarded prizes to more than 270 winners over the years, which represent just a fraction of the nearly 3,500 innovative concepts submitted by over 10,000 total participants. Through a one-of-a-kind network that includes the ESA Business Incubation Centres and other incubators across Europe, the ESNC plays a decisive role in the realisation of these ideas by supporting the foundation of startups and creating high-tech jobs.



The ESNC – the largest international ideas competition for the commercial use of satellite navigation is calling for submissions from 1 April – 30 June 2016.

Civilian UAVs: a growth market for GNSS

Drones have quickly transformed from novel objects of leisure to serious business tools. In order to operate safely, drones rely on satellite navigation signals such as GPS and Galileo for precise positioning and orientation. They thus represent a promising growth market for global satellite navigation systems (GNSS).

Today, UAVs are used in a variety of sectors, including geographical surveying and cartography, fire and disaster prevention, maritime applications, coastal protection, fishing, construction and pipeline mapping, urban management, forestry, and agriculture. The volume of the drone market is currently estimated at EUR 6.3 billion, and steady growth is projected for the decade ahead. This presents tremendous potential, particularly for startups and SMEs.

Press contact: Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen, Lena Nietbaur, Friedrichshafener Str. 1, 82205 Gilching, Germany +49 (0) 8105-7727717 lena.nietbaur@anwendungszentrum.de

The drone trend has also emerged in the ideas submitted to the ESNC, which selected a drone application - POSEIDRON - as its overall winner for the first time in 2015. Developed by the Spanish startup Sincratech Aeronautics, this multicopter is equipped with infrared cameras and uses the European positioning service EGNOS to save lives at sea.

"We had this really crazy idea to pull off something big - specifically, to revolutionise search-and-rescue services," reveals Loles Albiol Simó, Project Manager at Sincratech Aeronautics.

"We wanted to make a statement in the UAV sector and make it an essential part of the aviation and downstream space industry. Being recognised by the ESNC and receiving that positive feedback encouraged us to make our dream come true."

"We believe civilian drones have enormous potential in connection with the ESNC," states Thorsten Rudolph, CEO of Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen and initiator of the competition. "We want to focus even more on the topic this year to promote the foundation of more visionary companies in the surrounding future market."

Prizes designed to accelerate market launch

This year's winners will take home prizes worth a total of EUR 1 million and be welcomed into the ESNC's leading innovation network for global satellite navigation systems. Along with cash, the various prize categories on offer primarily include technical, business-related, and legal support in realising the winning business models. A jury of international experts from the realms of research and industry will also evaluate the winners of all the categories to select an overall winner, who will be revealed at the festive Awards Ceremony.

Those who enter the ESNC also stand to benefit greatly from the opportunity to work closely with leading institutions and regional partners. The ESNC is geared towards individuals and teams from companies, research facilities, and universities around the world. Those interested can enter the competition from 1 April to 30 June 2016 at www.esnc.eu.

In ESNC 2016, prizes are to be sponsored by the following partner regions and institutions: the European Space Agency (ESA), the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI), and the Horizon 2020 project BELS. Prototypes can also be entered into the GNSS Living Lab Challenge. The University Challenge, meanwhile, is explicitly designed for students and university research assistants. This year's confirmed partner regions are: Asia, Austria, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, the Czech Republic, Flanders, France, Galicia, Hesse, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Madrid, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Valencia. More to follow soon.

Press contact: Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen, Lena Nietbaur, Friedrichshafener Str. 1, 82205 Gilching, Germany +49 (0) 8105-7727717 lena.nietbaur@anwendungszentrum.de

The official website, www.esnc.eu, offers all the relevant information on the prizes, partners, and terms of participation involved in the ESNC.

ESNC and Copernicus Masters Info Day scheduled for 2 June 2016 at the European Space Solutions conference in The Hague

Following the resounding success of last year's joint kick-off event, the ESNC and Copernicus Masters will bring their global networks for satellite navigation and Earth observation together once again in 2016. This year, the industry's most important stakeholders will gather at an information event scheduled to be held from 9:30 to 11:20 am on 2 June as part of Europe's biggest conference for aerospace-based applications - European Space Solutions 2016 in The Hague.

Those interested will also have further opportunities to meet the ESNC's organisers and their partners at numerous regional kickoff events across Europe in April and May. For further details and information, please visit www.calendar.esnc.eu.



Space of Innovation Info Day at the European Space Solutions conference on 2 June in The Hague / The Netherlands

AZO - an experienced organiser

AZO (Anwendungszentrum GmbH Oberpfaffenhofen) has been organising the ESNC in close cooperation with an international network of research, industry, and regional entities since 2004. By leveraging its extensive experience as a specialist in building and maintaining global innovation networks and organising related competitions, AZO supports product innovations and the creation of new companies, primarily in the field of commercial aerospace applications. www.anwendungszentrum.de