

A NEW ERA FOR ESSP WITH THE ARRIVAL OF CHARLOTTE NEYRET AS CEO



Charlotte Neyret started work as the new Chief Executive Officer of European Satellite Service Provider (ESSP) in October 2021. She has been a passionate advocate of the aerospace industry for many years, starting as an engineer, then taking on responsibilities in Sales, Marketing and Business Development in the Space, ATM and telecoms domains before becoming Director of New Business Initiatives with Thales Alenia Space.

Her arrival in the Toulouse/Madrid-based company coincides with the beginning of a new period for ESSP, the company created by seven key European Air Navigation Services Providers¹ (ANSPs) to deploy the EGNOS Service Provision contract (ESP). The EGNOS contract is funded by the European Commission and managed through the EUSPA (European Union Agency for the Space Program), former the European GNSS Agency (GSA), with a clear mandate to help foster the use of satellite navigation within European industry, particularly aviation, and among citizens.

“ESSP’s core activity is the delivery of the ESP (EGNOS Service Provision) contract with the EUSPA,” says Charlotte Neyret. EGNOS is a satellite-based navigation service that improves the accuracy and integrity of the GPS signal (as well as very soon the Galileo signal) over Europe, which makes it very suitable for safety applications such as flying aircraft and many other uses. EGNOS benefits include improving accessibility in airports - especially in bad weather conditions - more direct en-route flight paths, reducing and simplifying equipment on board aircraft. Best of all, the service is for free to ANSPs. All that is needed is an on-board EGNOS certified receiver, plus an adapted approach procedure for the runway end.

How do you see the company changing in five years time?

The company is sustainable and solid. My main priority is first to maintain a good quality of service and the appropriate level of security, delivering high performance for aviation and other users. Secondly, it is to continue the development of the company and to ensure long term sustainable growth - the business is not transformational but evolutionary answering to market needs and being closer to its end-users.

It is important to take care to not destabilise services while proposing new ideas, while taking the benefits of my 24 years’ experience in the aerospace sector. A diversification of the company, so far fully dedicated to the provision of the EGNOS services, is on-going and I will pursue it.

The most important thing is team spirit, to give ambitious, credible objectives and a sense of what we are doing and where we are going. In five years’ time ESSP will be a multi-service company addressing new markets. The aerospace sector is moving fast and based on its assets, ESSP has a very promising future to support its stakeholders.

How will your activities contribute to the future development of satellite navigation based services?

EGNOS is a real asset in increasing the competitiveness of users, particularly for the aeronautical sector which has faced an unprecedented crisis. ESSP will contribute to deliver added-value multi-application services based on accurate navigation data, with integrity, gathered with environmental and observation data.

ESSP, as a certified operator with all the accreditations, should play a key role in all CNS satellite-based services for piloted and non-piloted aircraft and for the space traffic management, for civil and defence needs. ESSP will contribute to the development of the satellite-based navigation services in Europe and worldwide.

What are key projects is ESSP involved in?

Beyond its daily activities to operate the EGNOS system and to provide services, ESSP supports the development of EGNOS’s growing user-group by promoting new usages for all transport sectors. It is currently contributing to the development of new standards for maritime receivers, for example. ESSP is assisting industry in the development of the new EGNOS releases and in the definition of the next generation of the SBAS system to prepare the future of navigation. ESSP also eases international SBAS deployments with engineering and capacity-building contracts for Korean and ASECNA projects.

ESSP also contributes to the ESA Iris programme, aiming to become the provider of satellite-based, certified datalink services, critical to the digital transformation of Europe’s airspace.

“It is a great honour to be assuming this role at this time, and to have the opportunity to help ESSP keep playing an important role in helping this sector build back better from the global pandemic,” Mrs. Neyret said.

1 AENA; DSNA/DGAC; DFS; ENAV; NATS, NAV Portugal and Skyguide