Secure governmental satellite communications – Launching ENTRUSTED

Almost 20 institutions, representing EU member states and EU agencies, join efforts in the user-driven development of secure GOVSATCOM. A dedicated research project funded under Horizon 2020 will be launched on 15 September 2020.

10 September 2020

Growing demand for reliable and secure governmental communication

Effectively functioning public administration requires reliable and secure communication systems. In the era of satellite communications, access to communication services for governmental stakeholders should no longer be restrained, for example by unavailability of terrestrial communication infrastructure.

Exchanging confidential information, prevention of communication jamming and disruption due to external interference, together with the need for wider accessibility and cost-effectiveness represent vital factors driving the development of secure satellite communication services. Secure SATCOM solutions need to match service demand from eligible governmental users with supply provided by EU contracts for satellite capacities and services.

Unfolding secure GOVSATCOM user expectations and capability gaps with ENTRUSTED

In 2013, the European Council defined the Governmental Satellite Communications (GOVSATCOM) as one of the four capability development programmes. Implementing a user-driven approach while developing operational GOVSATCOM interface is key. Hence, a team of 18 organisations from across the European Union has embarked on a new research undertaking. It will address pending issues related to secure GOVSATCOM user expectations, as well as institutional and market responsiveness. International cooperation will progress within the framework of the EU-funded project

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under Horizon 2020 programme, entitled *European Networking for satellite Telecommunication Roadmap for the governmental Users requiring Secure, inTeroperable, innovativE and standardiseD services – ENTRUSTED*. The project will be officially launched on 15th September 2020.

ENSTRUSTED will accomplish the following tasks over the next 30 months:

- Development of a common understanding of governmental user needs for secure SACXOM systems;
- Creation of a consolidated and prioritised set of user requirements for the future EU GOVSATCOM programme;
- Analysis of available and planned secure SATCOM capabilities and solutions offered by commercial operators and governments, taking into consideration relevant use scenarios;
- Preparation of a synergies map serving the uptake of secure GOVSATCOM solutions among different users, based on different capabilities and requirements;
- Identification of needs for standardisation in terms of European standards for secure SATCOM user equipment and services;
- Identification and prioritisation of main research and innovation actions to be taken at national and EU levels with regard to secure SATCOM user technologies;
- Indication of options for a more efficient use of investments across the EU in secure GOVSATCOM.

ENTRUSTED draws together a diverse consortium constituted by partners representing national interests of 12 participating member states and interests of 6 EU agencies dealing with security or defence, who can benefit from the use of secure GOVSATCOM services.

Networking secure GOVSATCOM users

Members of the ENTRUSTED consortium have set-up of a Network of governmental Users (NoU) of the secure SATCOM. The NoU will be expanded, as ENTRUSTED proceeds, to associate other interested governmental and institutional users representing EU member states and EU agencies.

Due to its institutional representatives, the NoU is expected to serve as a platform enabling the exchange of information, experience and expertise in a competent, trustful and secure way. ENTRUSTED will offer the possibility to participate in dedicated training, workshops, live demonstration activities and conferences.

Paving the way forward

Identification of key governmental user needs and requirements will be conducted in parallel with the assessment of relevant secure SATCOM user technologies and future development prospects. These activities will support the indication and prioritisation of necessary actions that will fill gaps between existing secure SATCOM capabilities and governmental user requirements, taking into consideration aspects of interoperability and standardisation.

ENTRUSTED seeks to develop recommendations for the European Commission in terms of considerations that could affect user experience of secure SATCOM services. These may relate to necessary investments, user equipment and, if relevant, technological aspects important for the design of future services. Recommendations will be presented in the form of a consolidated set of institutional user requirements for secure GOVSATCOM services and a long-term Research and Innovation Roadmap

and Coordination plan (RIROC). ENTRUSTED will provide guidelines for user-related activities and pave the way for the future EU GOVSATCOM programme.

Project details

Grant agreement No. 870330

Timeframe: 30 months (September 2020 – February 2023)

Budget: 2 999 940.00 €

For more information about ENTRUSTED, please contact the project Co-ordinator or use ENTRUSTED media contact details.

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