

## Mission Evolution Advisory Group (MEAG)

### Activity report 4

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mission Evolution Advisory Group (MEAG) was held on 13 December 2012 in Brussels, and was chaired by the chairman. 12 out of the 22 appointed members were present (6 cancellations, 4 did not show up); + observers: Only the observer from ESA attended the meeting.

The objectives of the meeting were:

1. To debrief on the outcomes of the task forces,
2. To review the general comments on the Mission Evolution Roadmap,
3. To consolidate the Mission Evolution Drivers.

These objectives have been partly achieved.

Some specific points to note:

- A new article had been introduced and approved by the group in the course of October 2012: it stipulates that documents bearing the stamp "Limited" on it shall be considered as confidential and shall not be distributed further.
- The process of selection of new members to the MEAG is on-going. New members are expected to be appointed on January 2013.
- It was confirmed that MEAG will not have Members from third parties. Nevertheless, the MEAG is free to invite representatives from third parties to attend meetings whenever it thinks it is in the interest of the topics to be discussed.
- EC debriefed on the steps leading to completion of the roadmap: completion of the roadmap by December 2012, internal review in the course of January 2013, workshop with Member States in March with the objective to finalize the document and agree in particular on the established Mission Evolution Drivers (MED's).
- The three individual Task forces reports have been delivered to EC mid October 2012. Overall, the chairman regretted the reduced participation for establishing the TF reports, and recalled that it is important to have the whole group contributing to avoid the risk getting biased results which consider the position of a few MEAG members only.
  - The chairman of the User Requirement TF reported on the major findings which shall be taken into account for the evolution of the EGNSS mission. The overall quality of the contributions was judged to be very good, although the absence of valuable contributions on LBS and mobile phone users has been notified, due to the absence of expertise in this field.
  - The chairman of the System Capability Evolution TF reinforced the fact that in the evolution of the system features, the balance between complexity and new evolution shall be carefully taken into account. In this context it was also recalled that the MEAG shall provide its recommendations, without any a priori consideration of the implementation aspects (which is part of the system evolution planning performed by ESA).
  - The chairman of the User Technology TF reported that it is not advisable to put all the burden of the mission evolution on the system, since in many cases the user segment has demonstrated its creativity and its flexibility to find efficient work around to the shortfalls of the system. The chairman regretted that only few of the TF members could effectively contribute which was found to be difficult given the workload and the tight delivery schedule.

- MEAG experts provided some comments (mostly on chapter 3 of the EGMER Draft) during the meeting. Some ambiguous formulations have been spotted, and will be corrected.
- Regarding the analysis part of the roadmap (chapter 4), no particular comment was made, and neither inconsistencies nor incorrect statements were reported in the current version of the roadmap. The MEAG Members were encouraged to raise additional comments after the meeting.
- The afternoon session was devoted to the analysis of the list of MED's that was submitted early December to MEAG. The list was consolidated during the meeting and will constitute the basis for the elaboration the chapter 5 (Mission Evolution Areas) of EGMER by EC.