Distinguish Leadership
Award



Francisco-Javier Benedicto Ruiz is the leader and architect of Europe's satellite navigation success, with over 40 years of experience spanning academia, private industry, and the European Space Agency. He is the key figure in the development and deployment of EGNOS and Galileo, currently responsible for vision and strategic direction of Europe's entire suite of navigation programmes and next-generation PNT technologies.

Dr. Benedicto Ruiz obtained his M.Sc in science and telecommunications engineering from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain. He spent the formative years in his career at MIER Communicaciones and the Polytechnical University of Catalonia, both in Barcelona, Spain. He joined ESA in 1990, becaming head of the EGNOS project in 1995, transforming EGNOS from a concept into Europe's first operational satellite-based augmentation system and secured certified services for aviation, improving GNSS reliability for millions of users.

Dr. Benedicto-Ruiz was in the ESA Navigation Laboratory during the first Galileo Fix and served as a head of the Galileo Programme department since 2000, and for more than two decades. During this, he served as Galileo project manager, overseeing the entire progression from GIOVE technology demonstrators to a fully operational constellation of 30+ satellites. He managed over 20 global ground sites and navigation control centers. He navigated complex industrial procurement and institutional governance with the EU and 27 member states. He served as catalyst for the European supply chain in navigation, enabling industry in the area of L-Band navigation payloads, precision space-borne microwave atomic clocks and complex ground-segment RF infrastructure.

Dr. Benedicto Ruiz is currently Director of Navigation at the ESA, responsible for Europe's entire suite of navigation programmes. He initiated Galileo's Second Generation for enhanced precision and resilience and conceived and launched the FutureNAV programme,

EuMA aisbl
headquarters@eumwa.org
www.eumwa.org
Tel. +32 10 39 00 69
Mob. +32 475 49 48 22
rue Louis de Geer 6,
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
TVA BE 0464 401 356

overseeing LEO-PNT, GENESIS and disruptive technologies including quantum time transfer and AI-based navigation.

He is Senatore from the Accademia Internationale Medicea of Florence (2020), Doctoris Honoris Causa from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (2022) and received the Norman P. Hays Award for visionary leadership enabling EGNOS and Galileo. He is the architect who translated microwave theory into the operational reality of Galileo, securing Europe's technological independence. His career perfectly embodies outstanding leadership for the benefit of the microwave community.