

# Round Table Panel Session: "Galileo: A Significant Benefit to Marine Navigation?"

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**ABSTRACT:** On 21<sup>st</sup> of June (Thursday), the Second Day of International Symposium on Navigation TransNav'2007 is organized the Round Table Panel Discussion under chairmanship of Prof. Vidal Ashkenazi, UK. The title of Round Table Plenary Session is "Galileo: A Significant Benefit to Marine Navigation?".

## 1 CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the Round Table Panel Session is Prof. Vidal Ashkenazi, Chief Executive of Nottingham Scientific Ltd., UK., world-famous scientist and experienced chair of panel discussions.

## 2 PANELLISTS

It is our pleasure to present 5 distinguished panellists:

- Jean-Pierre Barboux,  
*Galileo Applications Development Manager,  
Thales, France*  
[jean-pierre.barboux@fr.thalesgroup.com](mailto:jean-pierre.barboux@fr.thalesgroup.com)
- Carlo des Dorides,  
*Head of the Concession Department  
European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA),  
Italy*  
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- Rolf Backstrom,  
*Finnish Maritime Administration and IALA, Finland*  
[Rolf.Backstrom@fma.fi](mailto:Rolf.Backstrom@fma.fi)
- Capt R A Smith,  
*President of the International Association of Institutes  
of Navigation, UK*  
[ra.ed.smith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ra.ed.smith@blueyonder.co.uk)
- Prof. Adam Weintrit,  
*Head of Navigational Department, Gdynia Maritime  
University, Poland*

[weintrit@am.gdynia.pl](mailto:weintrit@am.gdynia.pl)

## 3 BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

**Vidal Ashkenazi** is Chief Executive Officer of UK based Nottingham Scientific Ltd, and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. He was the founding Director of one of the leading Space Geodesy research institutes in Europe, and has supervised about 50 doctoral (PhD) students, many of whom now occupy senior positions in universities and industry in several countries. Ashkenazi has acted as a Consultant to a large number of government and commercial organizations around the world, including a short appointment as Senior Visiting Research Scientist at the invitation of the US National Academy of Science. He has published well over 500 papers and has been invited to give keynote lectures in many international conferences and symposia. Ashkenazi received a medal from the President of the Royal Society in recognition of his "significant contribution to the exploitation of GPS in a wide range of scientific and commercial applications." Professor Ashkenazi has the degrees of Dr of Philosophy and Dr of Science from the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

### **Rolf Bäckström**

- deputy director at the Finnish Maritime Administration, Traffic department
- radio engineering degree in 1968
- worked for the Finnish Maritime Administration since 1968
- presently works as the head of the traffic telematic process of FMA
- professional achievements:
- setting up the Finnish DECCA-system, project leader

- introduction of the new IALA buoy system
- the Finnish DGPS-system (the first public DGPS system in the world), project leader
- the Finnish AIS base station network, project leader
- numerous IT systems like Aids-to-Navigation database, PilotNet, IBNet, PortNet as project leader
- numerous VTS-related projects like: VTS/AIS-statistics database application, AIS-interference tracking and analysis application, AIS message watch application
- present focus of interest: telematic architectures, proliferation of PortNet to other countries
- active on international fora, like IMO, IALA, EMRF and NNF
- hobbies: music, choir, radio amateur

**Carlo des Dorides**, Head of the Concession Department - GNSS Supervisory Authority, Bruxelles, Belgium, received a degree in engineering at the University of Rome and subsequently an MBA at CUOA, Vicenza, Italy. From 1988 to 1989 he worked as System Engineer at Honeywell-Bull spa, Milan, Italy. From 1990 to 2001 he was Program manager for major satellite telecommunication projects and then Head of Unit, Advanced Telecommunication Programs at Alenia Aerospazio S.p.A., Rome, Italy. From 2001 to 2004 he was Director of Programs and Engineering at ENAV (Ente Nazionale Assistenza al Volo spa). From 2004 up to December 2006 he has been Head of Concession Division at the Galileo Joint Undertaking, Bruxelles, Belgium, in charge of the Galileo PPP/concession tendering phase first and then the PPP/concession contract negotiation.

Since January 2007 he is Head of the Concession Department at the GNSS Supervisory Authority, being responsible for the negotiation of the Galileo PPP/concession contract.

**Dick Smith** spent 35 years in the Royal Navy, much of it at sea. He sub-specialised in navigation and has served in most types of surface warships on the world's oceans. He has commanded a minesweeper, a minelayer, a squadron of mine countermeasures vessels, a frigate as well as The Commander of an aircraft carrier. He had served as the navigation desk officer at the Ministry of Defence (Navy) whose duties included navigational warfare, navigational requirements (he gave the first brief in Whitehall on GPS!) and reviewing every grounding and collision of the Royal Navy and the civilian manned Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

When serving at the United States Naval Academy he became the only foreigner to be appointed chairman of the navigation department (1400 midshipmen per year with 28 instructors). Later as a senior officer he was the Queen's Harbour Master at Portsmouth, responsible for the second busiest stretch of water in U.K.

On leaving the Royal Navy he became Chief Executive of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. He gave this up 8 years later on being elected president of the Royal Institute of Navigation. During this period the RIN provided a scientific brief on Galileo to the British Houses of Parliament. This 3 year spell was followed by chairmanship of the European group of

institutes of navigation (EUGIN) where Galileo again was very much to the fore of its deliberations. This time also partially overlapped with a similar period as Secretary General of the International Association of Institutes of Navigation (IAIN). Seeking to retire last year he was unexpectedly elected president of IAIN last November and it is in this guise that he is here today. Since then he has been appointed a member of the US Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) Advisory Board, which is mainly concerned with GPS.

**Adam Weintrit** is a Professor and the Head of Navigational Department at Faculty of Navigation of Gdynia Maritime University, Poland. He is also a Head of Electronic Navigational Charts and ECDIS Simulator since 1996.

He has got MSc degree from Gdynia Maritime University, Faculty of Navigation (1985), PhD degree (1992) and DSc degree (2004) from Warsaw Technical University, Faculty of Geodesy and Cartography. He has over 20 years experience in teaching and research works in the field of maritime navigation, sea transport, hydrography, cartography, geodesy and safety at sea. He has been involved in national projects funded by the Polish Committee for Scientific Research, a several local projects funded by GMU and has also co-operated in few international projects. He has published more than 180 reports and papers in journals and conference proceedings. He is author of 12 books on navigation, including 4 handbooks on ECDIS and electronic charts. He has several times been the member of the program and organizing committees of international conferences and symposiums. He is a Chairman of Organizing Committee of TransNav Symposium.

He has spent several years at sea serving as deck officer on merchant vessel. He has got Master Mariner license (1999).

He is a member of many professional associations, societies, institutes and boards; he is the Fellow of The Royal Institute of Navigation (London), member of Nautical Institute (London) - since 2005 Chairman of Polish Branch, member of The Netherlands Institute of Navigation (Rotterdam), member of Polish Navigation Forum (Gdynia), member of Polish Safety and Reliability Association, member of Polish Cartographer Society, member of MENSA-Poland and member of Executive Committee of Polish Nautical Society, Gdynia. He is member of Navigation Section, Committee of Geodesy, Polish Academy of Science. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Polish section NAV (Sub-Committee on Safety at Navigation) of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and member of Polish section STW (Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping) of IMO. He has co-operated with Gdynia Maritime Office in implementation of STCW Convention, he was the chairman of IMO Regional Seminar and Workshop on implementation STCW Convention organized at GMU (2001). He is international expert in electronic navigational charts. He was a member of several IMO correspondence groups: on radars, navigation-related information, ECDIS, INS/IBS and e-Navigation.

He represents Gdynia Maritime University in IAMU  
(International Association of Maritime Universities).