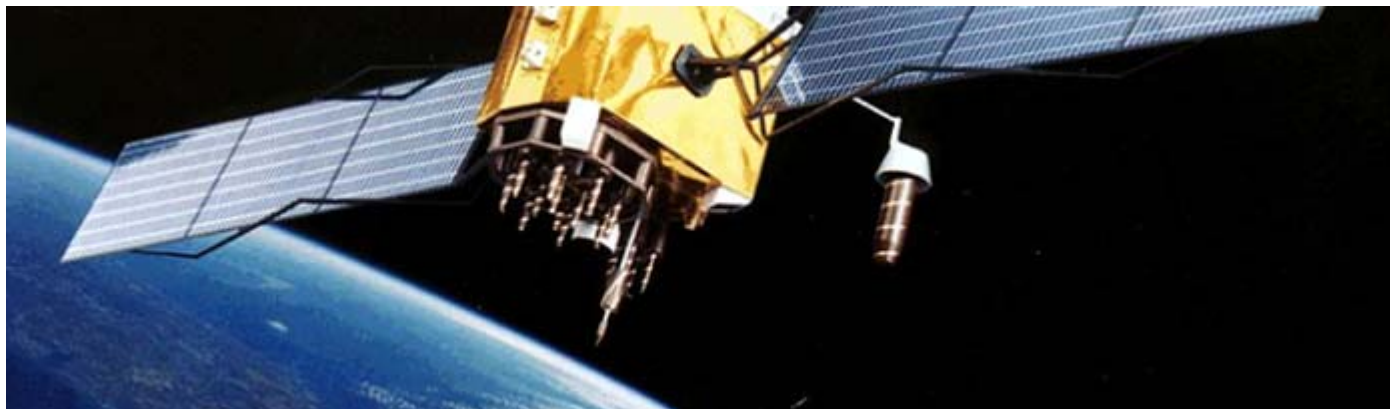


## [Press release. Saber helps Europe to bridge the digital divide](#)

01 July 2013



Helping national and regional governments to bridge the European digital divide thanks to the use of **satellite technology**. This is the main objective of the **guide lines** published by **SABER** (SATellite Broadband for European Regions), the Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP) project coordinated by **CSI Piemonte**, that involves **26 partners**, including Eutelsat, SES Broadband Services, Astrium and 21 regional institutions and public and private ICT organisations that support Regions in **13 EU countries** in the diffusion of broadband.

Indeed, according to the European Commission, satellite connections have improved and contribute to connect **4.5%** of the EU population that still has no access to broadband. To encourage the use of satellite networks, SABER released its **first 3 reports** (available upon request at [info@project-saber.eu](mailto:info@project-saber.eu)), important practical information that highlight and explain the potential of satellite technology that at present is still underused in public initiatives.

With its first report **“Early Guidelines on Satellite Services Procurement”**, SABER assists the European regions that wish to meet the objective of the 2013 Digital Agenda for Europe, offering guidelines for the procurement of satellite services and advice on how to better use still available EU funds for broadband, amounting to more than **one billion euro as of the end of 2012**. Funds that will be lost if they are not allocated within the end of this year.

The second report, **“Regional / National satellite broadband implementation case studies”** analyses a complete collection of case studies of EU regions that successfully used satellite technology. These are international examples in which regions from the UK, France, Italy, but also Spain, Norway and Greece have commissioned and successfully developed satellite broad band solutions.

And lastly the third report **“Early report on Satellite Broadband as an option for Regions”**, aims at increasing knowledge on the issue: the document presents technical and economic details of satellite technology, highlighting the potential barriers to its installation and suggesting the solutions to be adopted. The report also includes, for the first time, **a complete overview of the satellite broadband offers** presently available in Europe. A document which is particularly useful for Public Administrations that would like to compare service quality and costs on the market, that

reveals, for example, that satellite technology is no expensive, but rather has costs comparable to that of other technologies.

<Davide Zappalà, President of CSI Piemonte – CSI confirms its role at EU level, as it can put its experience and competence at the disposal of important innovative projects such as SABER. I believe that CSI should continue to look beyond Italy’s national borders to valorise the great wealth of solutions it developed for the institutions of the Piedmont territory, also with a view to re-using and sharing the best practice of the “Piedmont System”>>. <Stefano De Capitani, General Director of CSI – that see the collaboration of different EU countries and that for whom sharing practices and methodologies is indeed an added value. It is a demanding route, but it is coherent with the objectives of the Digital Agenda for Europe and for Italy, important innovation programmes aimed at promoting economic growth and competitiveness through the use of technologies. A challenge that we are ready to face, as we are sure that will yield, in the short term, concrete results for citizens and Public Administrations>>.

All SABER partners will be participating to a workshop in Turin on 27th June, together with Eurisy, the European no-profit association gathering all the main European space agencies, with whom the project has underwritten an important collaboration agreement.

For further information:

CSI Piemonte Press Office:

Tel. +39 011 3168205 - [comunicazione@csi.it](mailto:comunicazione@csi.it)