

ESA drone carries satellite navigation receivers to collect data

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Credit: ESA-Rimedia

ESA's Navigation Laboratory has a new recruit: this drone can carry different types of satellite navigation receivers to collect data for follow-on analysis.

The NavLab, based at ESA's ESTEC technical center in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, is focused on the testing, analysis and characterisation of [navigation](#) systems for both ESA and external customers.

With [drones](#) representing a rapidly-expanding satnav user base, this is a timely addition to the NavLab's suite of platforms for the testing of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technologies and techniques—also including static, mobile and pedestrian platforms and a pair of test vans.

Along with receivers and antennas, the drone can also host radio-frequency spectrum samplers and support equipment such as inertial sensors and stereo cameras, allowing the assessment of performance in specific dynamics and environments related to specific "Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle" applications, such as approach, landing, flying beside buildings or indoors.

Provided by European Space Agency

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