

AvMap hosted by Kenwood Germany at Ham Radio 2008 to present an APRS compatible GPS solution dedicated to Radio amateurs

Carrara, 24 June 2008 – AvMap, the only Italian player renowned in the international satellite navigation market, announces that from the 27th to the 29th June 2008 it will participate at **Ham Radio 2008 in Friedrichshafen**, one of the most important international meetings for the Radio Ham world to present **Geosat 5 APRS ready** with a new customized software for the **Kenwood TM-D710E radio**.

This move follows the long partnership between AvMap and Kenwood U.S.A. in North America, where the TM-D710A (the American version of the TM-D710E) and the Geosat 5 has become the ultimate APRS solution.

The **APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System)** is a digital communication system used by Radio Amateurs for real time tactical communications in a local area. Any station or portable radio that has an attached GPS is automatically tracked and its position can be viewed on the 5" colour touch screen of Geosat 5.

This system can be very useful for civil defence purposes for example to monitor the position of ambulances or other vehicles used in search and rescue operations.

“AvMap is proud to present in Europe, after the success in the United States a product dedicated to Radio Hams like the Geosat 5 APRS” states Simone Lazzarini, AvMap’s Managing Director, “with this move, our company shows once again its attention in producing high quality professional tools addressing specific market niches” – concludes the manager of the Italian Company.

The partnership between Kenwood U.S.A. and AvMap started in 2004 with Geosat 2 the APRS ready GPS compatible with Kenwood TM-D700A/E and TH-D7A/E. Following the success of this solution, AvMap launched in 2005 the Geosat 4 APRS ready. The evolution continues with the new Geosat 5, the first and only stand alone GPS featuring special APRS software customized on the new Kenwood TM-D710A/E functions (yet compatible with the former models TH-D7A/E and TD-M700 A/E).

Info on AvMap Geosat 5 APRS©

The Geosat 5 APRS© is an attractive, feature-rich personal navigator that's customized with Amateur Radio features. Integration with Kenwood's APRS transceivers is quick and easy.

Main features:

- Geosat 5 APRS© includes a serial APRS cable to connect AvMap Geosat5 – Kenwood radios and a bi-directional APRS© interface compatible with all APRS Kenwood radios.
- Geosat 5 provides information on the GPS position of the transmitted APRS beacons and shows the APRS information on the colour display. The unit can save up to 1000 APRS stations that are shown on the map.
- Geosat 5 supports dozens of standard APRS© icons (as indicated in the Kenwood sentence).
- 'Intercept to target' option, an innovative function for SAR operations: you can set the Geosat 5 to navigate to a moving APRS© contact and get rerouting instructions when the new position is reported!
- Tactical mode: Geosat 5 allows you to select an APRS © contact to see its speed, course and altitude in addition to its call sign and position.

There will be 2 versions of Geosat 5 APRS ready: Geosat 5 and Geosat 5 BLU (with Bluetooth), both with regional or European maps.

The top of the range, Geosat 5 BLU APRS - Europe will be exhibited at the Kenwood Germany booth (n. A1-103) and at the WiMo Antennen und Elektronik booth (n. A1-437) and it will be available in Europe at a retail price of €499.

About AvMap

AvMap was established in Italy in 1994 within the C-MAP group, the world leader in electronic chart technology. AvMap made its debut in the aeronautical market with the EKP (electronic kneepad), one of the most successful flight navigation systems sold worldwide. AvMap transferred its electronic cartography expertise from the aeronautical to the terrestrial sector, becoming a leader in satellite navigation solutions and fleet tracking systems. Users include the armed forces, police, fire brigades and emergency services.

In 1994, AvMap pioneered the sector of GPS portable solutions dedicated to car navigation, launching the 'Desert Cruiser' followed by 'Road Cruiser', 'Geosat GPS', 'Geosat evolution', 'Geosat2', the 'Geosat 4 series' and 'Geosat 5 series'. In 2006, AvMap entered the Navigation Software market by developing special applications for mobile devices. AvMap' partners include Peugeot Automobili Italia, Iveco, Tamoil etc.

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