Satellite navigation depends on truly accurate and stable on board clocks. A number of different technologies exist and have been used with GPS and GLONASS. Among these the Rubidium Atomic Frequency Standard is today the most widely used clock. The RAFS is currently one of the two clock technologies that is to be used in the Galileo Navigation Payload.
Development History:

- **In the early 90s**: first developments started under the ESA Technology Demonstrator Program.
- **In 1996**: kick-off of a contract for the development of an Rubidium clock suitable for Navigation applications.
- **First half 2000**: delivery of the first EQM clock.

- **Mid 2000**: follow-on contract for the clock lifetime qualification on five EQM units.
- **Mid 2002**: start of lifetime tests and delivery of the QM clock for radiation tests.

Comming soon:

- **End 2003**: delivery of an EQM clock with improved performance.
- **Mid 2004**: delivery of a PFM clock suitable for GSTBV2.