Wideroe and AVINOR performed last November some test flights at multiple airports with published EGNOS based approaches. Wideroe is a Norwegian regional airline operating a fleet of forty-three DHC-8 that received funding from the European GNSS Agency (GSA) to introduce SBAS capability in nine of their aircraft. The flights took place from Tromsø (ENTC) to Mehamn (ENMH) and then to Kirkenes (ENKR), the latter two airports already counting with LPV procedures. José M. Lorenzo, Aviation Development Expert from ESSP, accompanied Wideroe-based pilot Ole Støre flying the DHC-8-202 S (equipped with FMS UNS-1Fw) during the tests. The pilot was impressed by the performance delivered by EGNOS even at that high latitude, “exactly as GLS and ILS”. Additionally, he experienced less workload and an improvement in stability of the EGNOS guidance over ILS.

In the context of Norwegian regional aviation, EGNOS has become a cost-effective alternative to GBAS and ILS at several destinations, ensuring accessibility in all weather conditions and reducing investment in ground infrastructure.