

Paris, 12 June 2009

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) exhibits at the 48th International Paris Air Show (Le Bourget, 15-21 June 2009)

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, will be exhibiting from 15 to 21 June at the 48th International Paris Air Show at Le Bourget, which is celebrating its centenary year.

As one of the world's leading operators in satellite services, Telespazio will be exhibiting in the Finmeccanica stand its activities in the sectors of earth observation, integrated communications, navigation and space operations. In particular, the company will be illustrating its role in the Galileo, GMES, COSMO-SkyMed and SICRAL programmes, and will display its innovative services and applications in the fields of security, territorial management, emergency communications networks and telemedicine.

Telespazio operates in France via its subsidiaries Telespazio France and Fileas, and through Novacom Services, in which it has a stake.

The **Space Alliance**, formed between Finmeccanica and Thales, in which Telespazio provides satellite services and applications and Thales Alenia Space supplies the manufacturing and systems, will have two exhibition areas at Le Bourget – one at the Finmeccanica stand and one at the Thales stand – to display the two companies' common programmes.

In the sector of **geospatial information and security**, Telespazio will be exhibiting applications for natural event management (floods), environmental monitoring (oil spills), maritime security, and geophysical risk monitoring (volcanoes), developed using radar data from **COSMO-SkyMed**, the satellite system financed by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the Ministry of Defence. Telespazio played a key role in developing the system, building the ground segment and managing the launch and early orbit phases for the first three satellites launched in 2007 and 2008 (the fourth satellite will be launched in 2010). The COSMO-SkyMed constellation satellites, which can operate in any atmospheric conditions and offer very frequent revisit times, are controlled from Telespazio's Fucino space centre, while the data acquired for civil applications are collected and processed by the Matera space centre.

e-GEOS, a Telespazio and ASI company, is responsible for COSMO-SkyMed data commercialization worldwide. e-GEOS will have its own chalet at the air show together with 4C Satellite Images & Technologies SA, the company that has been given the exclusive rights to commercialise COSMO-SkyMed data in North Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia.

Telespazio, a joint venture between Finmeccanica (67%) and Thales (33%), is a world leader in satellite services: from management of satellites to Earth observation services, from satellite navigation to broadband multimedia telecommunications. Telespazio plays a leading role in the reference markets harnessing technological experience acquired over the years and through its participation in major European space programs such as: GALILEO, EGNOS, GMES and COSMO-SkyMed. The company in 2008 generated sales of EUR 432 million, and employed around 1,800 staff.

At Le Bourget, Telespazio will also be presenting its operations in the sector of **emergency communications**. The company develops and builds integrated broadband telecommunications networks, which are used in Italy by the civil protection agencies and the fire service. In April, only a few hours after the earthquake that devastated the Abruzzo region, the national satellite backbone built by Telespazio for the civil protection agencies, which is managed by the Lario space centre (Como), provided a link-up between the handsets used by the rescue teams across the area, the operations centre of the civil protection department and the crisis unit of the interior ministry in Rome. The company's *Nomadic Communication Trailers*, air-transportable units which, during emergencies, can create a virtual telecommunications hub capable of connecting mobile phones, radios and computers, provided effective backup to the rescue teams.

In the field of **satellite networks** using very small aperture terminal (VSAT) technology for broadband access capable of covering the whole territory, Telespazio will be illustrating the solutions it has developed on its proprietary platform Fullsat, which provide access to multimedia services for remote monitoring and surveillance and video communication services.

In the area of military satellite communications (Milsatcom), Telespazio played a major role in the development of **SICRAL**, the Italian defence ministry's secure satellite communications system. For SICRAL 1B, the second satellite in the programme, which was launched in April 2009, Telespazio was responsible for the launch and early orbit phase, as well as the ground segment. The in-orbit test phase is currently under way, and control will later be transferred from the Fucino space centre to the defence ministry's Vigna di Valle centre.

The SICRAL 1B programme is a public-private partnership between the Italian defence general staff and Finmeccanica. In accordance with the partnership agreement, Telespazio contributed to the direct programme costs in exchange for part of the satellite's transmission capacity, which it can use to sell telecommunications services to NATO countries and the European and US defence markets. The deal reached in December 2008 with DRS Technologies (a US company acquired by Finmeccanica in October 2008), to provide the latter with telecommunications services via the Italian SICRAL satellites and the Fucino satellite telecommunications centre, is just one agreement resulting from the SICRAL programme.

Telespazio is Finmeccanica's key operator in satellite navigation and localisation services – a role confirmed by the company's participation in the European **Galileo** programme. At its Fucino centre, Telespazio is completing the construction of one of the control centres that will manage the 30 satellite constellation, and is also contributing to the development in Rome of the Galileo Test Range, which will trial new services and applications. In addition, the company supplied the launch services and is currently involved in the operational management of the GIOVE-B mission, developed by ESA for in-orbit validation (IOV) of the technological solutions that will be used on board the Galileo satellites. Telespazio will supply the in-orbit operational and integrated logistics services for the IOV phase of the Galileo programme, which will see the launch of the first four operational satellites of the constellation by 2010.