

Rome, 24 July 2009

Patrice Durand is appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of Telespazio Holding

The Board of Directors of Telespazio Holding (Finmeccanica: 67%; Thales: 33%) appointed Patrice Durand as its new Chairman at a meeting held on 22 July 2009 at the Fucino Space Centre.

Patrice Durand, Senior Vice-President, Finance and Administration at the Thales group, will replace Bruno Rambaud, who has resigned.

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.