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The role played by Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) in the COSMO-SkyMed programme

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, has played a decisive role in developing COSMO-SkyMed, the innovative programme for Earth observation developed jointly by the Italian Space Agency and Ministry of Defence, consisting of four radar satellites. The first satellite in the constellation will be launched from the Vandenberg base in California on Thursday, June 7 at 7:21pm (June 8 at 04:21am Italian time) on board a Boeing Delta II launcher.

The Control Center for the entire COSMO-SkyMed constellation has been installed at the Telespazio Space Center in Fucino (L'Aquila). Approximately 58 minutes after the launch, the Italian satellite will be acquired and, through a series of operations, guided towards its final orbit.

The Matera Space Centre will be responsible for acquiring, processing and distributing the data gathered by the satellites for civil applications.

With its participation in this programme, Telespazio will extend its range of innovative applications, able to integrate radar and high-resolution optical data, such as operational monitoring services and integrated IT services, based on a geodatabase and accessible via the internet.

COSMO-SkyMed opens the era of operational geospatial information applications, not only for defence but also for emergency, territory and natural resources management. Thanks to the short revisit time granted by the four constellation satellites and radar technology, it is possible to obtain images any time during the day or night even in cloudy conditions, therefore Telespazio will be able to provide unprecedented operational monitoring services.

The application services that can be derived from COSMO-SkyMed will contribute significantly to the defence of the territory in such areas as fire, landslides, droughts, floods, pollution, earthquakes and subsidence, the management of natural resources in agriculture and forestry, as well as the monitoring of urban sprawl. In particular, COSMO-SkyMed will be able to meet the stringent operating requirements of the services of the European Union's **GMES** (*Global Monitoring for Environment and Security*) Programme, in which Telespazio has played a key role in developments and experiments on several preoperational projects.

The different products and application services will have global coverage, with useful information on both ground and sea. These will also be applied to industrial sectors that are strongly involved in operational and infrastructure management, such as transport, mining/oil, energy and telecommunications.

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.