

PRESS RELEASE

Capital increase for e-GEOS: company created by ASI and Telespazio (a Finmeccanica/Thales company) fully operational from today

Company aims for global leadership in the earth observation sector

Rome, 1 July 2009 - e-GEOS, the company created by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and Telespazio (a Finmeccanica /Thales company) is fully operational from today.

The shareholders' meeting of the company approved the capital increase of e-GEOS via the transfer of the earth observation division from Telespazio and the rights to the commercial distribution of COSMO-SkyMed data from ASI.

Following the transfers approved today, e-GEOS will have the know-how, operational staff and financial assets to be able to operate successfully on both the Italian and international markets.

e-GEOS (owned 80% by Telespazio and 20% by ASI), with main sites in Rome and Matera, aims to become a leading player in the geospatial information sector, with an integrated range of application solutions, content and services, based on radar and high-resolution optical data.

Specifically, thanks to the system's unique and innovative characteristics, data acquired from the radar satellites of the Italian COSMO-SkyMed constellation, which can operate in any atmospheric conditions with very frequent revisit times, will enable the company to offer operational monitoring services that up to now were impossible. The first three satellites of the COSMO-SkyMed constellation are already in orbit and operational. The launch of the fourth satellite is planned for 2010.

***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.*

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***The Italian Space Agency** is a national public body that operates under the Ministry of Universities and Scientific Research. Thanks to the activities of ASI, the Italian scientific community has achieved unprecedented success in the field of astrophysics and cosmology in recent decades. From space, the earth can be observed to forecast and avert environmental disasters, ensure rapid intervention in crisis areas and measure the effects of climate change. Thanks to ASI, Italy is also at the forefront in these fields with systems such as COSMO-SkyMed. Today, more than ever, space is the starting point from which mankind can broaden its cultural horizons, increase its awareness and provide a better future on earth.*

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