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The role of Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) in the Galileo programme

Telespazio, a joint venture between Finmeccanica (67%) and Thales (33%), plays a key role in the development of the Galileo system, the European satellite navigation system developed jointly by the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA).

At Fucino, the world's biggest space station for civil telecommunications, one of the **Control Centres** (GCC) that will manage the Galileo constellation and mission is currently under construction. The building, covering more than 4,000 sqm, will consist of two segments: the Galileo Control Segment, for the control of the 30 satellites belonging to the constellation, and the Galileo Mission Segment, for the provision, management and monitoring of operational services.

Telespazio will also have the task of setting up the **Performance Assessment Centre** for the Galileo system and signal. The performance assessment operations will ensure that, unlike in the case of GPS, the Galileo signal can be guaranteed at all times. This will make it possible to develop a series of critical applications that can meet stringent security requirements, for example in the field of civil aviation.

For the in-orbit validation (IOV) phase of the programme, currently under way, the company is prime contractor of the **GIOVE-B** mission, and will provide all the launch and early operation services for the second Galileo test satellite, which is set for launch on 27 April. Telespazio will also be responsible for managing the operational phase of the mission. All operations will be carried out at the Fucino Space Centre, where the control centre for GIOVE-B is based.

In Rome, Telespazio has played a key role in building the **Galileo Test Range**, a permanent laboratory which will provide testing and support for the validation of the Galileo signal, and which will develop the navigation and positioning system, applications and equipment.

With regard to the European Geostationary Overlay Navigation System (EGNOS), Galileo's precursor, which integrates and improves the performance of navigation systems already in existence, Telespazio has been involved for several years in the development and testing of innovative services and applications. Specifically, Telespazio co-ordinated the testing of EGNOS services in real operating situations for the M-TRADE, METIS and MENTORE projects. The company has also developed applications and services for monitoring hazardous goods and radioactive waste, managing fleets of motor vehicles in urban areas.

Galileo is the biggest project ever developed by the European institutions, and will form the basis for a whole range of applications and services in sectors such as road, air, rail and sea transport, telecommunications, earth mapping/cartography, and gas/oil exploration and mining. Particular focus will be given to security and defence applications, such as the protection of ports, airports, railway stations and other sensitive locations, as well as to other important civil protection and rescue services for people and vehicles.

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 2007 generated sales of EUR 394 million, and employed around 1,400 staff.