

Lille, 15 September 2008

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) to take part in the GMES Forum 2008

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, will take part in the GMES Forum 2008 to be held at the *Grand Palais*, Lille, France on 16-17 September, as part of the series of initiatives under the six-month term of the French presidency of the European Union.

GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) is one of the most important programmes of the European Space Agency and the European Commission, created to build a complete environmental monitoring system, particularly in relation to security and civil protection issues. The Forum in Lille will present the GMES programme and its initial operational services, based mainly on Earth observation satellite data, for institutional and industrial use.

Telespazio is a leading global player in Earth observation services thanks to long and solid experience in the sector, recent acquisitions of sound, industrial companies such as GAF (Germany) and Aurensis (Spain), and the company's role in the GMES and COSMO-SkyMed programmes.

With regard to GMES, Telespazio plays a key role in the development of the programme and its applications, co-ordinating three large projects in the security sector: G-MOSAIC, MARISS and LIMES.

G-MOSAIC (GMES Services for Management of Operations, Situation Awareness and Intelligence for Regional Crises), which is scheduled to be launched in 2008 with a budget of EUR 15.2 million, aims to identify and develop products, methodologies and pilot services for the provision of geo-spatial information as support for EU international policies, and to demonstrate the sustainability of the GMES programme from a global security perspective.

MARISS (European Maritime Security Services) commenced in 2005 with a budget of around EUR 3 million, and aims to set up maritime and coastal monitoring services as support for European institutions and authorities (ministries, coastguards and Frontex). In particular, the programme will provide services to control the borders of territorial waters, detect and identify ships, and monitor routes and illegal trade.

LIMES (Land and Sea Monitoring for Environment and Security) is Europe's biggest research and development project in the use of space technologies for security. LIMES was launched in 2006 with Telespazio co-ordinating a team of around 50 European partners and a budget of EUR 20 million. The programme offers innovative solutions and services based on Earth observation data and satellite communication and positioning technologies, in the fields of maritime surveillance and the monitoring of critical infrastructure (nuclear power stations, pipelines, etc). It also offers support to humanitarian missions, such as the management of relief aid following natural disasters (e.g. tsunamis or earthquakes), the movement of refugees, and reconstruction and development aid.

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 395 million, and employed around 1,700 staff.