



Rome, 29 April 2011

**The beatification of John Paul II: Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) to broadcast the event via satellite around the world**

On Saturday 30 April, Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, will be at the Circo Massimo in Rome for the prayer vigil for the beatification of John Paul II, in order to broadcast the event live via satellite around the globe.

Using three different satellites, Telespazio will manage the bi-directional television links with Poland, Lebanon, Mexico and Tanzania on behalf of the Vatican Television Center (CTV), enabling the faithful in these countries to join in the celebrations taking place in Rome.

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**Telespazio**, a joint venture between Finmeccanica (67%) and Thales (33%), is one of the world's leading operators in satellite management services, Earth observation and satellite navigation, as well as in the field of integrated communications and scientific programmes. Telespazio plays a leading role in the reference markets harnessing technological experience acquired over the years and through its participation in major European space programmes such as: Galileo, EGNOS, GMES and COSMO-SkyMed. The company in 2010 generated sales of EUR 437 million, and employed around 2,500 staff.