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LIAISON takes off: European project for managing emergencies

The Italian National Fire Corp, Telespazio and Thales Alenia Space present the satellite system that can remotely guide the emergency services

The Italian National Fire Corp, Telespazio and Thales Alenia Space, both members of the Space Alliance between Finmeccanica and Thales, on 20 May will present at Montelibretti (Rome) the LIAISON project. This is the most advanced and innovative satellite system for guiding and monitoring the emergency services when dealing with fire or other incidents in tunnels and buildings. The system will make the duties of the fire brigade, police, and civil protection squads both safer and more efficient.

The new system, result from the collaboration with the Italian fire department - within the European LIAISON (*Location-based services for the enhancement of working environment*) programme - will be presented during the "Location systems for emergency and rescue applications" workshop, which will be held at the Fire Corps Training Centre at Montelibretti (Rome).

Demonstrations of the LIAISON system will be held during the day. It will involve the Italian Fire Corp, Red Cross ARES 118 and the Sussex (UK) police force in two realistic emergency scenarios (a blaze in a building and a car accident inside a tunnel).

During the simulation the emergency teams will have a command and control centre at their disposal, and will be able to use 2D and 3D dynamic maps of the emergency scenarios, updated in real time. This system allows the monitoring of the movements of people, the management and sharing of information, orientation even in conditions of zero visibility, and the possibility to recognize and localize under all circumstances. It was designed and tested thanks to collaboration from the Italian fire service, which identified operating scenarios and the requirements for fine-tuning the optimum technological solutions.

LIAISON is an integrated project co-funded by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme and has a significant role for future security applications, compatible with the GPS satellite system and, in the near future, with the EGNOS and GALILEO systems. The system has advanced autonomous indoor location technologies.

The LIAISON solution enables significant improvement for the mobile workers in terms of working environment, security and safety. The development of this system is a confirmation of the commitment to innovation of the Italian Fire Service – the first in Europe to adopt a satellite communication system, now integrated within the national satellite network, of which Civil Defence and Civil Protection are also a part.

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