

Rome, 9 September 2008

## **Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) acquires 40% of the French company Novacom Services SA**

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, has acquired a 40% stake in the French company Novacom Services SA, which is 60%-owned by Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS), a subsidiary of the French space agency CNES.

Based in Toulouse, Novacom specialises in innovative navigation and localisation services that integrate both ground and satellite technologies. It develops applications in the sector of road, maritime and rail transport (monitoring of dangerous goods, localisation of fleets, etc), for emergency and rescue services, and in the environmental field (monitoring of ocean currents and migration patterns, etc).

The acquisition is part of Telespazio's drive to develop skills and know-how in the sector of satellite navigation and localisation services, with the aim of taking a leading role in seizing the business opportunities that are expected to open up in the next few years with the launch of the European Galileo programme.

In addition, the deal increases Telespazio's presence in France, where it operates via Telespazio France and already controls Fileas, a company specialising in satellite telecommunication services.

---

**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.