

Washington D.C., 24 March 2009

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) to take part in *Satellite 2009*

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, will participate at Satellite 2009, the conference and exhibition to be held at the Washington Convention Center from 24 to 27 March. The company will have its own stand in the display area of the exhibition and will demonstrate its activities in the earth observation, telecommunications, navigation and infomobility, and space operations sectors.

Also sharing the stand with Telespazio will be **DRS Technologies**, the American company bought by Finmeccanica in October 2008, and with which Telespazio signed two important agreements in December last year. These agreements were for the supply of telecommunications services through the SICRAL Italian satellites and through Telespazio's teleport in Fucino, Italy.

In detail, Telespazio will be able to provide satellite capacity to DRS Technologies through the SICRAL satellites of the Italian MoD – specifically through SICRAL 1B, that will be launched in April 2009. With this agreement Telespazio will enter fully onto the list of preferred suppliers of satellite services to DRS Technologies, and will begin a process of US market penetration in the military communication (Milsatcom) and teleport (global network communications) sectors. For Telespazio, the objective will be to further develop its business in the areas of homeland security, telemedicine and e-learning.

At Satellite 2009 Telespazio will show its activities in the field of earth observation and, specifically, the applications of satellites in the COSMO-SkyMed constellation, marketed globally by **e-GEOS**, a company that is majority-owned by Telespazio and in which the Italian Space Agency (ASI) also holds a stake. e-GEOS is targeting a role as global leader in the geospatial information sector, offering an integrated range of application solutions, contents and services based on radar data and high resolution optics. This will allow the company to cover the full value chain in the earth observation sector: from data acquisition and processing to the supply of services and applications. In particular, data received from the COSMO-SkyMed radar satellites, thanks to the unique and innovative features of the system, will enable the company to offer operative monitoring services that until now have not been possible.

Last January e-GEOS signed a contract worth €180m with 4C Satellite Images & Technologies, for the ceding of commercialisation rights in North Africa, Middle East and South East Asia for data from COSMO-SkyMed. The agreement represents an important development in the earth observation sector and launches a new era in security and surveillance services in near-real-time.

Finally, in Washington Telespazio will present its services for the management of space vehicles: from small scientific satellites to big constellations. From the Fucino space centre the company is able to cover all phases of a space mission: from launch to placement in final orbit, through to the control and management of the operating life of the satellites.

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.