

Washington D.C., 15 March 2010

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) to participate in *Satellite 2010*

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, is to participate in *Satellite 2010*, the conference and exhibition which, this year, is due to take place at the Gaylord National Convention Centre (Washington D.C.) from 16 to 18 March. The company, among the principal world operators in the field of satellite services, is present on the exhibition area of the event with a stand where it will demonstrate its activities in the sectors of integrated communications, satellite operations, earth observation, navigation services and infomobility.

In the United States, Telespazio supplies **DRS Technologies**, a company controlled by Finmeccanica, with satellite telecommunication services via the SICRAL satellites of the Italian MoD, and teleport services via its own space centre at Fucino, in Italy. With this agreement, Telespazio in 2008 launched a process of penetrating the US market in the military communications (Milsatcom) sectors and the teleport services (global network communications), with the aim of further developing its own activities in the fields of homeland security, telemedicine and e-learning.

Furthermore, with its subsidiary **e-GEOS** (80% Telespazio, 20% Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (Italian Space Agency)), Telespazio has initiated an important collaboration with Lockheed Martin to develop combined activities in the sector of Geospatial Information. In January 2010, the team composed of Lockheed Martin and e-GEOS succeeded in winning a contract worth up to USD 85 million from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) for the supply of data, products and services obtained by the Italian COSMO-SkyMed SAR satellites.

e-GEOS is aiming to achieve a role as global leader in the geospatial information sector, offering integrated application solutions, content and services, based on high-resolution radar and optical data, capable of covering the entire earth observation value chain: from the acquisition and processing of the data to the supply of services and applications. In particular, the data obtained from the COSMO-SkyMed radar satellites, thanks to the unique and innovative characteristics of this system, enables the company to provide unprecedented operational monitoring services.

Moreover, at *Satellite 2010* Telespazio will be presenting its own space vehicle management services: from small scientific satellites to large-scale constellations. From the Fucino Space Centre, and with the help of a worldwide network of ground stations, the company has been able to cover all of the phases of the space missions over a period of more than 40 years: 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 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 2008 generated sales of EUR 432 million, and employed around 1,900 staff.