

Taormina, 17 November 2009

e-GEOS (Telespazio/ASI), Eurimage and Euromap take part in GeoCAP Conference – “Geomatics in support of the common agricultural policy” (Taormina, 18-20 November)

e-GEOS, the joint venture between Telespazio (80%) and the Italian Space Agency (20%), with its subsidiaries Eurimage and Euromap are sponsoring the 15th GeoCAP Conference (“Geomatics in support of the Common Agricultural Policy”) which is to be held in Taormina, Sicily, from 18 to 20 November.

The GeoCAP Conference is organised jointly by the Italian Agency for Agricultural Supplies (AGEA) and the MARS unit (Monitoring Agricultural ResourceS) of the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC), with the aim of stimulating discussion and debate on the latest developments in remote sensing technology and on how these can be applied to controls associated with the EU’s agricultural subsidies. The event, which also includes an exhibition area, will be attended by 350 experts from around the globe representing governments, agencies and industry.

e-GEOS, through its subsidiary Isaf, is the competence centre for the remote sensing activities of the Italian National Agriculture Information System (SIN), set up by the AGEA. These measures are necessary to update and constantly improve the quality of agro-environmental system management, as well as for the annual controls on a sample basis that the European Commission requires of all member states.

e-GEOS also provides AGEA – through Isaf – with agronomic land use maps, either of specific areas or for the whole of Italy, agro-environmental monitoring services to ensure that environmental conditions and rural development regulations are being adhered to, and assessments of the damage caused by forest fires.

As a key global operator in the field of geospatial information offering an integrated range of application solutions and services based on high-resolution optical and radar data, e-GEOS can supply AGEA with the data it needs to carry out these checks, and therefore allocate EU agricultural subsidies.

In particular, the innovative nature of the COSMO-SkyMed satellite constellation means e-GEOS can acquire multiple images of a specific area on the same day, anywhere in the world and in any weather. The COSMO-SkyMed constellation, funded by the Italian Space Agency and the Italian Defence Ministry, currently consists of three operational satellites, with plans to launch a fourth satellite in 2010. The system is controlled from Telespazio’s Fucino Space Centre, while civil-sector data is gathered and analysed by the Matera Space Centre.

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 2008 generated sales of EUR 432 million, and employed around 1,800 staff.