

Rome, 8 February 2010

## **Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) renews agreement with Eutelsat for the transmission of RAI channel**

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, has renewed the contracts for the satellite capacity of two transponders on satellites managed by Eutelsat Communications for the transmission of RAI television and radio channels.

The extension of these agreements further consolidates the partnership between the two companies, as well as confirming Telespazio's role as RAI's main technology partner in the provision of satellite services.

The two 72 MHz transponders on the Eutelsat satellites ATLANTIC BIRD™ 1 and W3A have been leased by Telespazio as part of a multi-year agreement. Both offer excellent coverage of Italy, which makes it possible to meet RAI's ongoing requirement for constant information coverage, broadcasting news services, sport and special events throughout an area that stretches from Europe to North Africa and the Middle East.

As well as guaranteeing easy access to the full available satellite bandwidth at short notice and according to the needs of the moment, permanently securing this capacity allows RAI the maximum flexibility in managing services that range from short newsgathering broadcasts in SD (Standard Digital) format to high-profile events in HD requiring the transmission of digital flows of up to 42 Mbps.

*"The renewal of these agreements," said **Lucio Magliozzi**, Chief Operating Officer of Telespazio, "strengthens our long-standing collaboration with RAI and Eutelsat and confirms Telespazio's role as a key partner for the satellite broadcasting industry. In addition to supplying RAI with the necessary satellite capacity to establish its connections, Telespazio will also provide all the support necessary to supply services of the highest level of quality and reliability, both via the Telespazio systems installed on site at RAI and through the 24-hour transmission coordination service provided by the National Television Control Centre at the Lario Space Centre (Como)".*

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**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.