

Rio de Janeiro, 17 March 2010

e-GEOS and Telespazio Brasil, subsidiaries of Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales), win contract to monitor the Amazon using COSMO-SkyMed satellites

e-GEOS and Telespazio Brasil, subsidiaries of Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales), in partnership with the Brazilian firm Imagem, have been awarded a contract in Brazil to supply high and medium-resolution COSMO-SkyMed radar satellite images as part of the tender process initiated by the Operations and Management Center of the Amazonian Protection System (CENSIPAM).

Under the agreement, e-GEOS and Telespazio Brasil will provide CENSIPAM with satellite images covering a guaranteed minimum area of 1,026,000 square kilometres of the Amazon.

It is only thanks to the unique characteristics and performance levels offered by the three satellites in the Italian COSMO-SkyMed constellation (a fourth will be launched during 2010) that it is even possible to attempt to monitor such a vast area with a high frequency of image acquisition.

For e-GEOS and Telespazio Brasil, this success represents the first step in their joint strategy for entering the Brazilian Earth observation market. The companies' strategy also includes offering value-added services and innovative applications that e-GEOS has already successfully launched for the European and international markets.

***COSMO-SkyMed**, which is financed by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the Italian Ministry of Defence, is a dual-use satellite system intended for both military and civilian applications that involves the use of four satellites fitted with synthetic aperture radar sensors (the first three satellites are already in orbit, while the fourth will be launched during 2010). These satellites can operate in any atmospheric conditions, day and night, and with very frequent revisit times. The COSMO-SkyMed constellation can provide images with a resolution as high as 1 metre and has the capacity to record up to 2,400,000 square kilometres per day to be used for security applications, ground surveillance, environmental monitoring and natural resource management by public sector bodies and industry.*

***e-GEOS**, a joint venture between Telespazio (80%) and the Italian Space Agency (20%), is active in all areas relating to Earth observation, from gathering and processing satellite data to developing and marketing products. The company, which has sites in Rome and Matera, aims to become the world's leading provider in the field of geospatial information, with an integrated range of application solutions, content and value-added services, based on synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data and very high resolution (VHR) optical data.*

***Telespazio Brasil** is a Telespazio subsidiary with its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, where it has its main teleport, and regional offices in São Paulo, Porto Alegre and Cuiabá. Telespazio Brasil is today one of Brazil's leading providers in the satellite telecommunications sector, offering a wide range of cutting-edge solutions and multimedia services. The company is also active in the Earth observation sector, and it markets the products of the COSMO-SkyMed radar satellite constellation in Brazil on behalf of e-GEOS.*

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.