

Press Release

e-GEOS (ASI/Telespazio) locates the Italian ship seized in the Indian Ocean with COSMO-SkyMed satellites

Rome, 10 February 2011 – The Emergency Team of e-GEOS, an ASI/Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) company, has acquired COSMO-SkyMed satellite images of the Italian oil tanker “Savina Caylyn”, seized by pirates in the Indian Ocean on 8 February.

The data provided by the Italian COSMO-SkyMed radar satellites has enabled the location of the ship to be pinpointed, confirming the position already calculated by the authorities managing the rescue operation.

The first COSMO-SkyMed image was acquired on 9 February at 14:44 Italian time (point A in the picture). A second acquisition was made today at 03:17 (point B). The satellite pictures show that the oil tanker has moved 182 nautical miles, at a speed of approximately 14 knots, towards the coast of Somalia.

The satellite images cover an area of 10,000 square kilometres, thereby providing an overview of what is taking place around the ship.

Satellite maritime surveillance activities are carried out as part of the MARISS (*Maritime Surveillance Services for Security*) Service Network: an activity financed by the European Space Agency and led at European level by e-GEOS.

The COSMO-SkyMed programme is the result of an agreement between the Italian Space Agency (ASI), the Italian defence ministry and MIUR (the Italian industry for education, universities and research). e-GEOS, a joint venture between ASI (20%) and Telespazio (80%) sells COSMO-SkyMed data and products around the world.