



## **Astrium Ltd wins Ariane's Cup**

*Formia (LT), 2 October 2006* – The team from UK company Astrium Ltd, skippered by Carol Lo, today won the 27th Ariane's Cup, a three-day international sailing competition contested in Formia by representatives from organisations operating in the European aerospace sector. In second place was the Italian team from Datamat, skippered by Claudio De Bellis, ahead of a German team from Daimler Chrysler led by Rolf Kufferat. The Telespazio team, led by Gianni Riccobono, came sixth this year. Telespazio won last year's trophy, when the race was held in Martinique.

There were around 800 participants at the regatta, which was organised by Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Alcatel) with substantial support from Filas, the Lazio Region's innovation promotion company, and the Formia local authority. The 81 vessels entered, varying in length from 34 feet to 46 feet, competed over three days in the waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea on a course taking in the port of Formia, the Circeo Promontory and the northern coast of Campania. The city of Formia hosted the regatta and related events in a purpose-built village at the port, which was visited by a great number of spectators.

Ariane's Cup was established at the end of the 1970s thanks to the passion for the sea of certain managers involved in the Ariane European space programme. The race was held for the first time in 1979 in the Baie de Quiberon, in Brittany, and was contested by 15 teams. The number of participants has gradually increased over the years, peaking at 950 in 1999, when the event was held in the Grenadine Islands.

This year's race saw the participation of all the main Italian and European aerospace organisations.

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