

Toulouse, October 31, 2007

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) acquires from Agence France Presse 85% of Fileas, a satellite data broadcasting company

Telespazio (a Finmeccanica/Thales company) has announced a 85% takeover of Fileas, with the remaining 15% still held by Agence France Presse. This acquisition comes within the scope of Telespazio's development strategy in France in the field of satellite telecommunications services.

Thanks to the acquisition of Fileas, Telespazio is extending its range of satellite data broadcasting services and intensifying its efforts towards developing its other service activities. Giuseppe Veredice, CEO of Telespazio, declared on this occasion: "*I consider this operation as a unique opportunity to support the development of our service offer, as well as to expand our presence in France*".

Since the early 1960s, Telespazio has been active in all applications based on the use of communications and observation satellites, particularly value-added services such as content broadcasting, broadband access and GSM, geo-positioning of people and assets, e-learning, telemedicine, civil emergency services (fire brigades, police, public administrations, etc.). The acquisition of Fileas, a supplier of specialised broadcasting services and solutions, is a first step of this development strategy in France.

Chairman and CEO of Agence France-Presse (AFP) Pierre Louette said, "We are sure that Telespazio will be an excellent shareholder. Fileas will benefit from the strength of a major satellite telecommunications player and thus be able to capitalise on the growth opportunities in corporate and public sector services. The AFP is delighted to join forces with Telespazio, which thus becomes a strategic partner."

About Agence France-Presse:

AFP is a global press agency that supplies multimedia content and covers the world's current affairs. The agency is present in 165 countries and employs 4,000 staff. Coverage is organised around five regional centres. It produces 5,000 dispatches in six languages, 2,000-3,000 photos, 80 news graphics and 30 video clips each day.

About Fileas

Fileas, which was founded in 1986 under the name PolyCom, is a software solutions editor and international operator for data broadcasting services by satellite and other networks to approximately 10,000 receiving stations (from a dozen broadcasting centres). As part of its services, Fileas offers worldwide coverage, a round the clock service and a guaranteed quality of service.

Telespazio France is the French subsidiary of Telespazio, a world leader in the field of satellite service providers. Based in Toulouse and with an extensive site in Kourou, the company operates from the sites of its customers – institutional or private -, maintains a large number of terrestrial infrastructures and commercialises Telespazio value-added services on the domestic market. www.telespazio.com/fr

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.