

Fucino, 27th September 2007

Italy gives a new boost to Galileo: the foundation stone laid for the Control Centre of the European satellite navigation programme at Telespazio's Space Centre in Fucino

The foundation stone for the Galileo Control Centre of the European satellite navigation system was laid today at the Telespazio Space Centre in Fucino, with the participation of the President of the Senate Franco Marini and the President of the Abruzzo Region Ottaviano del Turco.

The new infrastructure, which will cover a surface area of approximately 4,000 sq.m. and is due to be completed by the end of 2008 with support from the Abruzzo Region, will house one of the two Constellation Mission Control Stations for Galileo. The second centre is under construction in Oberpfaffenhofen (Munich) and is to be managed by the German Space Agency (DLR).

The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of Finmeccanica and CEO Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, the Finmeccanica General Manager Giorgio Zappa, the Telespazio CEO Giuseppe Veredice, the Director of European Union and Industrial Programmes at the European Space Agency Giuseppe Viriglio, and the Head of the European Commission's Galileo Unit Paul Verhoef.

Telespazio is one of the major global operators in the space operations sector and also plays a key role in the development of the Galileo Programme. On 13th September 2007 in Paris, the European Space Agency awarded a contract via ESNIs (European Satellite Navigation Industries), to the European *Network of Centres*, managed by DLR with Telespazio as its reference partner, to prepare operations for the IOV (In Orbit Validation) phase of the space programme.

The IOV phase of the Galileo programme started in December 2005 when GIOVE-A, the first of two test satellites, was launched into orbit. This will be followed in early 2008 by the launch of GIOVE-B. This system will be managed by the Fucino Space Centre. Subsequently, the first 4 operational satellites of the Galileo constellation will be launched by the end of 2009. Validation tests on the system will be carried out during the IOV stage. During this stage, Fucino will house the first of the two Constellation Mission Control Stations (Galileo Mission Segment), which will control the uplink of the signal to the constellation and its monitoring, and manage the global network of ground stations.

The final phase of the Galileo programme foresees the completion of the constellation (which consists of 30 satellites) and the ground infrastructure by the end of 2013, reaching full operational capability of the two Control Centres in Fucino and Munich, which will manage both the Mission and Satellite Control segments.

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.