

Rome, 14 March 2008

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales to take part in SATExpo Europe 2008

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, will take part in SATExpo Europe 2008, the international exhibition of space and advanced telecommunications to be held at the *New Rome Trade Center* from 27 to 29 March.

Telespazio, one of the world's leading operators in satellite services, will present in Rome, as part of the Finmeccanica group stand, its activities in Earth observation, integrated telecommunications, navigation and control of orbiting satellites sectors. The company will also present its radio and television signal transmission systems, which it manufactures for the major Italian and international broadcasters.

Specifically, Telespazio will demonstrate at SATExpo its role in **Galileo**, the European satellite navigation programme, where it is responsible for building one of the Mission Control Stations for the 30-satellite constellation at the Fucino Space Centre. Telespazio will also build one of the Signal Performance Validation Centres, and plays a leading role in managing the Galileo Test Range (Gtr), the laboratory housed in the Tecnopolo Tiburtino facility in Rome, which will support the development of the Galileo system, equipment and applications. Telespazio will introduce some of the applications based on the EGNOS system, the forerunner to Galileo, in the monitoring and control of dangerous goods sector (M-Trade and METIS).

Using a multimedia Simulator, Telespazio will also present in Rome a range of Earth observation satellite applications, developed based on **COSMO-SkyMed** radar data, for monitoring and managing natural risks (e.g. oil spills, floods, volcanic eruptions). Telespazio plays a leading role in the development of the Italian COSMO-SkyMed programme, financed by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the Ministry of Defence, which consists of four radar satellites that can operate under any atmospheric conditions, day or night, and can support both military and civil applications. The COSMO-SkyMed constellation - the last two satellites will be launched in 2008 and 2009 - is controlled by Telespazio's Space Centre in Fucino, while the data captured by the satellites for civil use will be collected by the Matera Space Centre.

At SatExpo, Telespazio will also present its satellite broadband telecommunications networks, developed for the civil protection service, the fire service and the Interior Ministry, managed by the Space Centre in Lario (Como). Telespazio designs, develops and produces communications networks able to integrate both land and satellite technological infrastructure, offering value-added services for bidirectional broadband communications with applications in telemedicine, e-learning, e-government and homeland security, as well as in mobile information services on board trains. Lastly, the company will show the activities carried out for the Ministry of Defence as part of the **SICRAL** programme.

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.