

Washington, 24 february 2008

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) takes part in *Satellite 2008*

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, is to take part in *Satellite 2008*, the space services industry conference and exhibition that will be held at the Washington Convention Center from 24 to 28 February. Telespazio will have its own stand in the exhibition area, where it will display its activities in space services, Earth observation, mobile information services and satellite networks for emergency communications.

Telespazio has been active in **satellite operation** since the early 1970s, and has experience in managing small scientific satellites and large constellations. The company is now able to cover all phases of a space mission, including the satellite's launch, move into final orbit position and operational life.

In the **Earth Observation** sector, Telespazio is one of Europe's most important distributors of satellite data, and offers application services and products for environmental monitoring, territorial monitoring, cartography and land registry, the management of natural resources, the prevention of risks from natural disasters and mobile information services.

Telespazio contributes actively to the development of the innovative **COSMO-SkyMed** programme, designed for both civil and military use. COSMO-SkyMed is a constellation of four radar satellites that can operate under any atmospheric weather conditions and with very short revisiting times. The first two satellites of the constellation are already in orbit: the other two will be launched in 2008 and 2009. COSMO-SkyMed, financed by the Italian Space Agency and the Ministry of Defence, opened up a new era of *Geo-spatial Information* operating applications, not only in defence but also in the management of emergencies, territory and natural resources. With its participation in this programme, Telespazio will extend its range of innovative applications, able to integrate radar and high-resolution optical data.

In **telecommunications**, Telespazio designs, builds and operates telecommunications networks able to integrate both ground and satellite infrastructure and technology. It develops value-added services for bidirectional broadband multimedia communications, with applications in e-learning, e-government, telemedicine and homeland security.

In this sector, Telespazio produced the first integrated satellite telecommunications system in Europe for emergencies, which has been adopted in Italy by the civil protection, fire and civil defence services. The system comprises the satellite backbone of the civil protection service which can "re-establish" communications in areas affected by emergencies, through audio, video and even radio links with operations rooms.

In mobile communications for trains, Telespazio is developing a new system with Ansaldo STS, Italian state railways and the Russian RZD (the largest rail operator in the world) to allow train control via satellite, using both the current EGNOS (in future Galileo) and telecommunications satellites.

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.

