

Singapore, 18 february 2008

Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) takes part in the Singapore Air Show 2008

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, will participated at the Singapore Air Show 2008, which will be held at the Cangi Exhibition Centre from 19-24 February, within the Finmeccanica pavillon.

The company will present its activities in the space services and Earth observation arena. Specifically, it will illustrate, with the assistance of a multi-media simulator, the company's role in COSMO-SkyMed, the innovative the Italian Earth observation system. Telespazio, with its participation in this programme, will extend its range of innovative applications, able to integrate radar and high-resolution optical data.

The COSMO-SkyMed system, financed by the Italian Space Agency and the Italian Ministry of Defence, opens the era of operational geospatial information applications, not only for defence but also for the management of emergencies, territory and natural resources. COSMO-SkyMed will have many applications and contribute significantly to territorial protection in such areas as landslides, droughts, floods, pollution and earthquakes, and to the management of agricultural and forestry resources.

COSMO-SkyMed is a constellation of four satellites equipped with radar sensors that can operate under any weather conditions and with very short revisiting times. The system has been designed as a dual use program intended to meet civil and defence objectives. The first two satellites of the constellation are already in orbit, the other two will be launched in 2008 and 2009.

Telespazio is a key player in the development of COSMO-SkyMed, with responsibility for the entire ground segment. The Fucino Space Centre, 100 km from Rome, is responsible for managing the constellation during the operational life of the mission. The Matera Space Centre is responsible for acquiring, processing and distributing the data gathered by the satellites for civil applications.

COSMO-SkyMed will be able to respond to the stringent operating requirements of the European Union and ESA's GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) programme, in which Telespazio has played a key role, by developing and testing several pre-operational projects.