



Turin, 15 February 2006

## **Torino 2006: EmercomSat, Telespazio's civil protection satellite network, goes live**

Turin, 13 February 2006 – With the opening of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, EmercomSat, the first civil protection satellite network, has become operational. The system was built by Telespazio (a Finmeccanica/Alcatel company), and is designed to guarantee communications in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

EmercomSat provides real-time, reliable and secure broadband communications. It is interoperable with the national fire service network already active in the region, and is the first unified satellite system available for emergency, security and public utility services.

The cooperation between the Piedmont regional authority and the interior ministry offers a unique opportunity to develop the system further, providing efficient and reliable operating models that can be used in other applications, both nationally and internationally.

The operating room of Piedmont's civil protection service is now equipped with a services centre able to communicate, via satellite, with the local prefecture, the fire service control centre and directly with the locations in the Alps currently hosting the Olympics. Furthermore, EmercomSat provides the civil protection services with an always-on connection to the interior ministry, where the management centre for the fire service network is based. A special communications vehicle, transportable by helicopter, is available to deal with emergencies even in inaccessible and remote areas.

The EmercomSat satellite system was built by Telespazio in partnership with Alcatel Alenia Space, using SkyplexNet technology: the only system in the world to use the new generation of satellites (Eutelsat's Hot Bird) with regenerative digital transponders.

With the development of the EmercomSat network, Italy has confirmed its role at the forefront of technological innovation and security applications. The Piedmont regional authority has again proved its credentials as a hothouse for new communications technologies.