



Bogotá (Colombia), 15 December 2011

Telespazio Brasil wins two contracts in Colombia to monitor the areas hit by the recent floods with Italian COSMO-SkyMed satellites

Telespazio Brasil, a subsidiary of Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) has been awarded two contracts in Colombia worth approximately EUR 400 thousand, to provide COSMO-SkyMed satellite images to the South American country's geographical institute. In the last few weeks, heavy rain has caused flooding in huge areas of the country, and led the government to declare a state of national emergency.

The *Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi* (IGAC) has assigned Telespazio Brasil the task of monitoring by satellite the areas of the country most at risk of flooding, with the aid of the four radar satellites of the COSMO-SkyMed constellation, financed by the Italian Space Agency and the Italian Ministry of Defence.

Over the next ten days, Telespazio Brasil will provide satellite coverage of an area extending over approximately 65,000 sqkm. The images provided by Telespazio Brasil are acquired and processed by e-GEOS, the company established by the Italian Space Agency (20%) and Telespazio (80%) to sell COSMO-SkyMed data worldwide.

This is the first contract signed by Telespazio Brasil to provide COSMO-SkyMed images in Colombia, a fast-growing market in the Earth Observation sector.

Telespazio Brasil is a Telespazio subsidiary with its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, where it has its main teleport, and regional offices in São Paulo, Porto Alegre and Cuiabá. Telespazio Brasil is today one of Brazil's leading providers in the satellite telecommunications sector, offering a wide range of cutting-edge solutions and multimedia services. The company is also active in the Earth observation sector, and it markets the products of the COSMO-SkyMed radar satellite constellation in Brazil on behalf of e-GEOS (ASI/Telespazio).

Telespazio, a joint venture between Finmeccanica (67%) and Thales (33%), is one of the world's leading operators in satellite management services, Earth observation and satellite navigation, as well as in the field of integrated communications and scientific programmes. Telespazio plays a leading role in the reference markets harnessing technological experience acquired over the years and through its participation in major European space programmes such as: Galileo, EGNOS, GMES and COSMO-SkyMed. The company in 2010 generated sales of EUR 437 million, and employed around 2,500 staff.