

Venice, 7 September 2006

Telespazio at the 10th International Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale

A contribution to the study of large cities from space

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Alcatel company, will take part in the 10th International Architecture Exhibition, dedicated to "*Cities. Architecture and Society*", which will take place as part of the 2006 Biennale exhibition from 10 September to 19 November.

Telespazio has made a fundamental contribution to the exhibition by providing satellite pictures of 16 large cities – including Caracas, Cairo, Los Angeles, London, Milan and Tokyo – chosen to represent the megalopolises of our time in a new light. These images of the Earth, taken by a satellite 450 km away, offer an increasingly higher resolution, now at less than a metre, and are an indispensable tool for town planning and land monitoring.

Seen from space, cities take on a whole new dimension, one that is extremely useful for those studying environmental, town planning, demographic and economic problems in depth. Specifically, satellite data allows areas to be monitored constantly, so their development can be observed over time. With the help of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), multi-temporal analyses may be carried out to identify the relationship between cause and effect, make forecasts and analyse the expected impact of new development and regeneration projects.

Telespazio is at the forefront of Earth observation systems, and is one of the most important providers of satellite data in Europe, where it is exclusive data distributor for QuickBird, the most advanced satellite in commercial remote sensing. Its range of services will soon be boosted by innovative applications able to integrate radar and high-resolution optical data, which can be used in advanced environmental monitoring, cartography and integrated IT services based on a geodatabase and accessible via the internet.

Telespazio, a joint venture between Finmeccanica (67%) and Alcatel (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.