

SATELLITE ADAPTOR

SATELLITE SYSTEM
FOR EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS



A leading European solution
for civil protection

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Satellite system for emergency communications A leading European solution for civil protection

To help increase the efficiency of rescue operations during large-scale national or international emergencies, the European Space Agency (ESA), in partnership with European civil protection agencies, has launched an initiative to develop new satellites that will provide reliable communications at all times.

THE EUROPEAN SOLUTION FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

The initiative includes a Satellite Adaptor project, which was assigned to Italy following an international tender. The project team will be headed by Telespazio - a Finmeccanica/Thales company - and also comprises Thales Alenia Space, Indra and Hispasat. As part of the project, the Piedmont



civil protection authorities will have the task of "validating" the functions of the new satellite technology.

Thanks to the experience and know-how acquired with the EmercomSat satellite system - launched for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin - the Piedmont regional authority will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of this new international satellite system. Turin will therefore become an "incubator" for new technologies and applications aimed at improving communications in emergency situations.

By financing this project, ESA hopes to encourage the standardisation of new systems and favour dialogue between European civil protection agencies. This will lay the foundation for "harmonised" technological development in accordance with the requirements of these agencies, which will now be able to take action anywhere in the world using a satellite system that integrates the various national systems and can provide high quality, reliable audio and video communications.



SATELLITE ADAPTOR: A SATELLITE SYSTEM FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The "Pan-European Satellite Telecom Adaptor", developed by Telespazio, will be based around an integrated communications system installed on a helicopter-transportable vehicle that will enable each civil protection agency to connect its operations centre with the emergency scene.

The main new development with this system is its interoperability with satellites based on different standards which, thanks to the Satellite Adaptor, can now interact with each other to ensure a secure and reliable broadband connection.

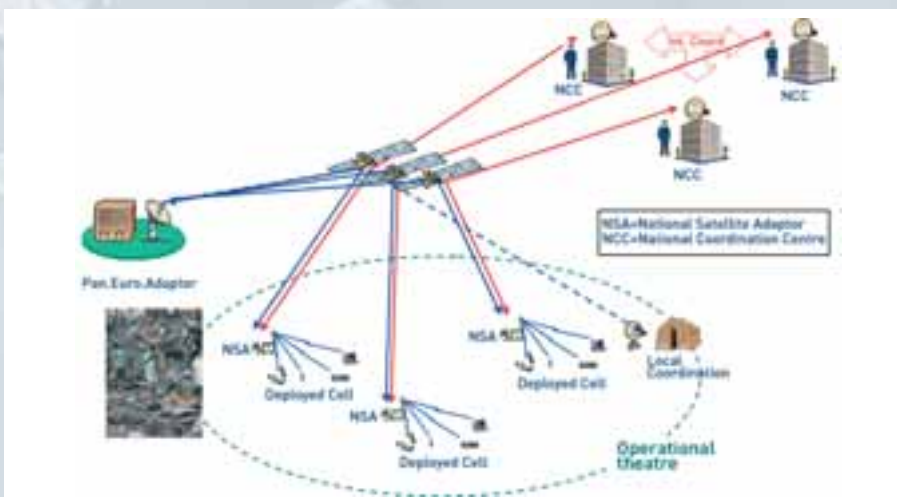
Another development, which constitutes a first, is the integration of all the wireless and satellite telecommunications components.

The helicopter-transportable vehicle will be able to create analogue and digital radio cells in situ, and connect them to the civil protection agency's operations centre via satellite. In this way operators will be able to use the communications systems in service and connect them with terrestrial networks.

The satellite is therefore essential to extend the coverage of wireless communication systems and to provide ever more convergence between the various technologies.



This new ESA contract is an important acknowledgment of Italy's technological expertise in the telecoms sector, and also recognises the proactivity of its national civil protection agencies. Against this backdrop, Turin is the ideal place for the launch of the new system, thanks to its strong track record in technological innovation and in the development of new wireless services.





TELESPAZIO

A Finmeccanica / Thales Company

Telespazio S.p.A.
Via Tiburtina, 965
00156 Rome - Italy
Phone (+39) 06.40791

www.telespazio.com

