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Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) signs an agreement with GeoEye to sell images from the GeoEye-1 satellite in Europe and North Africa

The company will be the exclusive European distributor for Earth images produced at the highest resolution currently available for commercial use

Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company, has signed an exclusive agreement with the U.S. company GeoEye, Inc., for the production and sale in Europe and North Africa of the high-resolution images, products and services offered by the new GeoEye-1 Earth observation satellite. The satellite was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force Base, California on 6 September.

Under the agreement, Telespazio will also have access to GeoEye's IKONOS satellite and, after 1 January 2009, will be able to collect, produce and sell Earth images and related products from IKONOS in Europe and North Africa.

GeoEye-1 is a 1.955 kg satellite designed to take high-resolution images of the Earth from a distance of 681 km. The satellite collects images that can distinguish objects on the Earth's surface as small as 41 cm. It also provides 1.65 m resolution multispectral imagery.

Through a proprietary production capability, GeoEye-1 will provide colour images at 41 cm resolution, which no other commercial imaging company is currently able to match. However, due to current U.S. government licensing regulations, non-U.S. government customers will be given access to GeoEye-1 imagery that has been re-sampled to 50 cm resolution.

Thanks to the agreement signed with GeoEye, Telespazio plans to integrate images from the IKONOS and GeoEye-1 satellites with geographic information systems (GIS) for public and private sector clients. The collection of new optical images from the IKONOS and GeoEye-1, together with the high revisit of radar images from the four satellites in the **COSMO-SkyMed** constellation, belonging to the Italian Space Agency and Italy's defence ministry, will allow Telespazio to provide an exclusive information service for natural resource management and national security operations.

With the GeoEye-1 and IKONOS data, Telespazio will be able to make a significant contribution to the development of a number of major European programmes, especially **Kopernikus** (formerly GMES), and the European Joint Research Centre's agricultural monitoring service, based on the use of satellite images.



Telespazio, a joint venture between Finmeccanica (67%) and Thales (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. The company in 2007 generated sales of EUR 395 million, and employed around 1,700 staff.

About GeoEye

GeoEye is the premier provider of geospatial information for the national security community, strategic partners, resellers and commercial customers to help them better map, measure and monitor the world. The Company is recognized as the industry's trusted imagery expert for delivering reliable service and the exceptional quality of its imagery products and solutions. It operates a constellation of Earth imaging satellites, mapping aircraft and has an international network of ground stations, a robust imagery archive, and advanced imagery processing capabilities for developing innovative geospatial products and solutions. On September 6, GeoEye launched its GeoEye-1 satellite which is the world's highest resolution and most accurate commercial imaging satellite. The Company also provides support to academic institutions and non-governmental organizations through the GeoEye Foundation. Headquartered in Dulles, Virginia, GeoEye is a public company listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange under the symbol GEOY. It maintains a comprehensive Quality Management System (QMS) and has achieved company-wide ISO accreditation. For more information, visit www.geoeeye.com.

About Telespazio

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In the field of geospatial information Telespazio is covering the whole range of activities from satellite data reception at ground stations to application solutions for final users and is leading innovative emergency and security projects at European level integrating satellite, aerial and in-situ data within the decision making process of the customer. The company in 2007 generated sales of EUR 395 million, and employed around 1,700 staff. For more information, visit www.telespazio.com.