

Fucino, 7 July 2009

## **Handover to Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales) of the infrastructure that will host the Control centre for the Galileo European space programme**

Today saw the signing, at the Fucino Space Centre, of the formal agreement to hand over the infrastructure for one of the control centres of the Galileo satellite constellation to Telespazio, a Finmeccanica/Thales company.

The loan for use agreement was signed by Alfredo Castiglione, councillor for productive activities and vice-president of the Regione Abruzzo; Lucio Magliozzi, chief operating officer of Telespazio; and Daniele Antinarella, extraordinary commissioner of the consortium for the industrial development of Avezzano, which built the infrastructure.

The control centre for the Galileo constellation and mission, co-financed by the Abruzzo region, covers an area of around 5,000 square metres, and was built thanks to a framework agreement signed in December 2005 between the Abruzzo region and Finmeccanica, aimed at encouraging the development and growth of industry in Abruzzo. The subsequent agreement signed in January 2007 between the region, the consortium for the industrial development of Avezzano and Telespazio, allowed work to begin and the infrastructure to be built on schedule.

With the formal handover of the control centre, Telespazio will begin cabling the entire structure, and will then proceed with the installation and integration of the systems and equipment required by the control system for the satellite constellation and mission. More particularly, work will begin on the areas dedicated to security, navigation signal generation systems, orbital management and atomic clocks (precise time facility or PTF). The control centre is expected to be fully operational and will be inaugurated in autumn 2009.

*Galileo is the European satellite navigation system developed jointly by the European Union and the European Space Agency, and is the largest project ever developed by the European institutions. It will form the basis for a whole range of applications and services in sectors such as road, air, rail and sea transport, telecommunications, earth mapping/cartography, and gas/oil exploration and mining. Particular focus will be given to security and defence applications, such as the protection of ports, airports, railway stations and other sensitive locations, as well as to other important civil protection and rescue services for people and vehicles.*

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**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 2008 generated sales of EUR 432 million, and employed around 1,800 staff.