

Press release

EDRS system: e-GEOS and SES to build new Ground Station in Italy

The European Data Relay System (EDRS) User Ground Station will improve Earth observation data collection systems across Europe

Rome, 1 March 2018 – e-GEOS (a joint venture between Telespazio 80% and Italian Space Agency 20%) and SES are working together to build Matera User Ground Station (MUGS) for the European Data Relay System (EDRS). The MUGS is designed to receive, process and distribute data streams from the EDRS space segments. EDRS serves the EU's Earth Observation Programme Copernicus, which supports urban area management, nature protection, agriculture, health, and civil protection.

EDRS is an optical satellite communications system that enables near-realtime data relay from Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites to Europe via the geostationary EDRS-A and -C satellites. It is developed under a public-private partnership between the European Space Agency (ESA) and Airbus, through ESA's Advanced Research in Telecommunications Systems (ARTES) programme.

The tender for the construction of the MUGS was awarded to e-GEOS by ESA, under ARTES. The project will be managed by ESA and led by e-GEOS as the prime contractor, in close collaboration with SES, who has been selected to design, deliver and test the ground station, and Airbus to build data collection and storage units.

MUGS will be installed and integrated at the Italian Space Agency (ASI) Geodesy Centre - G. Colombo - at Matera, Italy. It is forecast to become operational during the second half of 2019 and once completed, the ownership and operation of the station will be transferred from ESA to ASI.

"The Matera User Ground Station will provide EDRS near-realtime data relay service from LEO satellites, allowing ASI to implement applications for the monitoring of our Planet enabled by the Sentinels of the Copernicus programme." – stated Bruno Versini, Chief Operation Officer of e-GEOS. "This is an important result, achieved by joining our skills in operating in the ground segment and leadership in the technological integration with the engineering expertise of our partners."

"We are delighted to once again be chosen to be a technology partner in such a prominent project. Through our collaboration with the global leader in Geospatial Services and application provider e-GEOS we will continue contributing to improved Earth observation data collection systems across Europe," said Steve Collar, CEO of SES Networks.

Note to editors:

e-GEOS is a leader in Geo-spatial Information business and has over two decades of experience of providing solutions for Matera Space Centre, particularly in the management of Sentinel satellites for Copernicus project. The MUGS will be an EDRS ground station, being able to process and deliver data streams from Copernicus satellites, like Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2, which are relayed to the ground station by the EDRS space segment. It will operate as a collaborative station and will be equipped with a Ka-band receive-only antenna.

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About e-GEOS

e-GEOS, an ASI (20%) / Telespazio (80%) company, is a leading international player in the Earth Observation and Geo-Spatial Information business. e-GEOS is the global distributor for the COSMO-SkyMed data, the largest and most advanced Radar Satellite constellation available today. The company offers a unique portfolio of application services, specially thanks to the superior monitoring capabilities of COSMO-SkyMed constellation. Covering the whole value chain, from data acquisition to the generation of analytics reports, e-GEOS is working for big data analytics, based on the integration of different sources.

e-GEOS, provides Geo-information services such as monitoring for environmental protection, rush mapping in support to natural and man-made disaster, specialized platforms for defense and intelligence (braINT), Near Real time oil spill and vessel detection services for maritime surveillance platforms (SEonSE). e-GEOS can offer interferometric measurements for, ground subsidence and landslides analysis, thematic mapping for city management, agronomy/ precision farming, cultural heritage, Inherent Defect Insurance (IDI) and forestry.

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SES is the world-leading satellite operator and the first to deliver a differentiated and scalable GEO-MEO offering worldwide, with more than 50 satellites in Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) and 12 in Medium Earth Orbit (MEO). SES focuses on value-added, end-to-end solutions in two key business units: SES Video and SES Networks. The company provides satellite communications services to broadcasters, content and internet service providers, mobile and fixed network operators, governments and institutions. SES's portfolio includes ASTRA, O3b and MX1, a leading media service provider that offers a full suite of innovative digital video and media services. SES is listed on the Euronext Paris and Luxembourg Stock Exchange (ticker: SESG). Further information available at: www.ses.com