

Rome, 2nd March 2022

Copernicus: Telespazio is placed in charge of the Coordination Desk of the European Earth Observation Programme

- **The European Space Agency (ESA) has assigned the coordination of all the Copernicus constellation operations managed by ESA (the Copernicus Coordination Desk) to an international consortium led by Telespazio**
- **Telespazio will deliver Copernicus operations monitoring and reporting information**
- **Telespazio, one of the leading industrial partners of Copernicus, plays an important role in the programme's systems, operations, services, and applications**

The European Space Agency (ESA) has awarded Telespazio, a joint venture between Leonardo (67%) and Thales (33%), the contract for the coordination of all operations concerning the Copernicus Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2, Sentinel-3 and Sentinel-5P constellations.

As the leading contractor, Telespazio will be at the head of an international industrial consortium inclusive of its subsidiary Telespazio France, as well as Exprivia (Italy), S&T (Austria), AliaSpace (Italy), Eversis (Poland) and EJRC Quartz (Netherlands).

As a result of the new contract, Telespazio will provide end-to-end monitoring of operations ranging from the planning and acquisition of observation data to their effective distribution to the end user in line with specific response times, while also ensuring any correction.

Telespazio will thus serve as a link between all the services deployed by ESA for the acquisition and generation of Earth observation data, as well as conducting regular campaigns to ensure the services' compliance with the agency's specific requirements.

The Desk will also ensure the distribution of auxiliary data to support processing and will maintain ESA's "Sentinel Online" website in operation ensuring publication of all the news items and deriving from the use of Copernicus data.

Telespazio's role within Copernicus

Leonardo, with the joint ventures Telespazio (Leonardo 67% and Thales 33%) and Thales Alenia Space (Thales 67% and Leonardo 33%), plays a leading role in the European Copernicus programme, as a fundamental partner in both developing systems and in satellite applications for the programme.

Telespazio plays a major role in terms of the programme's high-tech systems, operations, applications and services. In particular, the company is in charge of the development, maintenance and management

Telespazio is a world leading operator in the space services sector, managing the design and development of space systems, the launch and in-orbit control of satellites, Earth observation services, integrated communications, navigation and satellite localisation, and scientific programmes. Telespazio plays a leading role in its reference markets by leveraging the technological skills acquired in over 60 years of business, as well as its infrastructure and participation in space programmes such as Galileo, EGNOS, Copernicus and COSMO-SkyMed. Telespazio is a joint venture between Leonardo (67%) and Thales (33%); in 2020, it generated 540 million euro in turnover, and it currently employs 3,000 people in nine countries.

of the operations of PRISM (Copernicus Contributing Missions access Support Functions and Platform), the system that enables the distribution of satellite data - acquired from Copernicus missions - to ESA users engaged in emergency management, environmental monitoring and safety operations.

In the operational sector, Telespazio provides its own personnel to support ESOC, the European Space Operations Centre of ESA. Moreover, it is in charge of the operations, maintenance and evolutions of ESA-PRISM and of the acquisition of Sentinel-1 radar mission data from the Matera Space Centre (through e-GEOS, a joint venture of Telespazio, 80%, and the Italian Space Agency, 20%), since 2014 one of the stations of the Copernicus Core Ground Segment.

Services side, e-GEOS supplies the European Commission with geospatial data and satellite maps of areas struck by emergencies, thus supplying the civil protection agencies and relevant authorities of EU countries, as well as international humanitarian organisations, with the data needed to handle catastrophic events.