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Telespazio Ibérica wins a 22 million geo-information innovation contract in the Canary Islands to fight fires with drones and satellites

- **The company, in consortium with the Andalusian company Pegasus, has become a strategic partner of the Canary Islands Government in order to promote the aerospace industry from Fuerteventura Technology Park.**
- **The project will last almost two years, create quality jobs and contribute to the diversification of the archipelago's economy.**

Telespazio Ibérica, the Spanish subsidiary of Telespazio (a joint venture between Leonardo, 67%, and Thales, 33%), a leading geo-information company in Spain, in a joint venture led by the company Pegasus Aero Group, has won a 22 million euro contract tendered by the Canary Islands Government, and financed with European Funds, for the development of innovative solutions.

The company will develop these new technologies from start to finish with the use of aeronautical and aerospace vehicles such as drones, pseudo-satellites (HAPs and MALE) and satellites in a project that will last almost two years, create quality jobs and contribute to the diversification of the area's economy, which is strongly linked to tourism and the primary sector.

This is the most important project currently being developed at a national level and will use this type of aircraft to generate information, which has become a decisive tool for the prevention and extinguishing of forest fires.

The Government of the Canary Islands needs this technology in order to combat the fires that hit the islands particularly hard in 2023 with more and better resources. Tenerife suffered the worst fire of the year in Spain, with almost 15,000 hectares burnt, representing 37% of the forested area and 19% of all the forest area burnt in the country.

Through this contract, Telespazio Ibérica has become a strategic partner of the Government of the Canary Islands when there is strong commitment to the aerospace industry from the Fuerteventura Technology Park. Its contribution as a technology driver will foster the development in this sector of an ecosystem of companies, especially SMEs, which can benefit from these innovations.

Citizen-facing applications

Telespazio Ibérica is the Spanish subsidiary of Telespazio, a joint venture between Leonardo and Thales, one of the world's leading satellite service operators. The company is a leader in Spain in the field of geo-information and satellite navigation, and a reference in the sector with over 35 years of experience in these fields. It is at the forefront in other sectors, from the design and development of space systems to the management of launch services and the control of satellites in orbit. It also excels in Earth observation services, communications, navigation and satellite tracking and scientific programmes, with a strong focus on bringing these services to citizens.

Some of this project's applications will be the observation and monitoring of environmental complexes; the control of natural areas such as Lobos Island, the Corralejo Dunes Natural Park and Jandía Natural Park; the control of public assets of environmental value such as the Tindaya Mountain Natural Monument; and the prevention, early warning and support for forest fire management in the Canary Islands.

This programme is part of the *Canary Islands 2030 Geo Innovation Programme* promoted by the Government of the Canary Islands and the Fuerteventura Island Government. It is a programme for Earth observation, intelligent environmental management and communications.

Telespazio Ibérica is the leading company in Spain in the geo-information and Earth observation applications market. It has extensive experience in supporting emergency management using satellites and is currently developing new technologies for the monitoring and management of biodiversity using drones in collaboration with the Galician Autonomous Government through the Civil UAV Initiative programme.

For the CEO of Telespazio Ibérica, Carlos Fernández de la Peña, "this contract connects perfectly with our company strategy to develop geo-information applications and solutions that benefit people and are directly related to sustainability. It also confirms that the commitment we have made to technological innovation with drones and satellites makes us a solid technological partner of the Public Administrations, adding Fuerteventura and the Canary Islands to an increasingly extensive presence in other autonomous communities."

Further information

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