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PRESS RELEASE

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# Telespazio wins the contract for the support services of the Italian-French MUSIS-CIL programme

Telespazio, a joint venture between Leonardo (67%) and Thales (33%), has been awarded a multi-year contract with the OCCAR (Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation), which acted on the mandate of the Italian and French Defence, for the “In Service Support” (ISS) operational phase of the MUSIS-CIL programme.

The *Multinational Space Based Imaging System - Common Interoperability Layer* (MUSIS-CIL) is resulting from the cooperation between the Italian and French governments, to allow the interconnection and federation of two important space infrastructures for Earth observation, the French Composante Spatiale Optique (CSO) and the Italian COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation, and orchestrate their respective joint use by the two countries.

For the implementation phase of the MUSIS-CIL system, the OCCAR - in the name and on behalf of the Italian and French Ministries of Defence - had signed a contract in 2019 with a Consortium consisting of Airbus Defence and Space and Thales Alenia Space Italia, a joint venture between Thales (67%) and Leonardo (33%), with Telespazio as its subcontractor.

In the new “In Service Support” contract, the MUSIS International Industrial Consortium, created by Telespazio and Airbus Defence and Space – Temporary Grouping of Companies under Italian law (*RTI*) led by Telespazio as *mandataria*, with Airbus Defence and Space as *mandante* –, will be responsible for providing the two countries’ Ministries of Defence with logistical support services. These services include operational training for the use of MUSIS-CIL and system maintenance throughout all the expected life cycle of 15 years.

The ceremony for Contract signing and for the first three years of service was held on 24 June in Bonn (Germany), in the OCCAR headquarters. The OCCAR-EA Director, Joachim Sucker, and the Vice President of Marketing and Sales of Telespazio, Giuseppe Lenzo, signed during the ceremony, with the attendance of the representatives of the involved parties.

The aim of the MUSIS programme is to provide France and Italy with easy, reliable and secure access to the satellite capabilities of the two space systems, CSO and COSMO-SkyMed, simplifying satellite programming and image production.

The COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation is a constellation financed by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) with funds allocated by the Italian Ministry of University and Research alongside the Italian Ministry of Defence. It will guarantee the operational continuity of SAR (Synthetic-Aperture Radar) Earth observation services provided by the first-generation COSMO-SkyMed satellites launched into orbit starting from 2007.

**Telespazio**, a Leonardo and Thales 67/33 joint venture, is one of the world’s leading operators in satellite services. Its activities range from the design and development of space systems to the management of launch services, from in-orbit satellite control to Earth observation, from integrated communications, satellite navigation and localisation services to scientific programmes. Telespazio plays a leading role in the reference markets harnessing technological experience acquired over the years. Since its establishment, the company has participated in major European space programmes such as Galileo, EGNOS, Copernicus and COSMO-SkyMed. In 2023, Telespazio generated sales of EUR 700 million while employing 3,300 people in 15 different countries.