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Digital Divide: Telespazio and Altec Announce Strategic Collaboration to Connect Schools in the Patagonian province of Río Negro

- **The agreement will bring fast internet access, thanks to the Starlink satellite network, to areas with limited or no infrastructure**

Telespazio (a Leonardo and Thales 67/33 joint venture), a global leader in the provision of space services and solutions with extensive experience in the design, development, and operation of satellite communication systems, and Altec, an Argentinian company leading company in technology and communications solutions, have announced a strategic collaboration to bring Starlink satellite internet technology to schools and municipal offices in the Argentinian province of Río Negro, in Patagonia.

The collaboration between Telespazio and Altec will enable the implementation of the Starlink network, known for its ability to provide high-speed internet access in areas with limited or no infrastructure. This joint effort will facilitate the connection of numerous educational institutions and government centers, promoting digital development and technological inclusion in Río Negro. This innovative project aims to improve connectivity and access to digital resources in remote and rural areas of the province.

"We are committed to joining forces with Altec to bring Starlink connectivity to the province of Río Negro," said Nicolas de Gracia, President of Telespazio Argentina. "This partnership represents an important step toward improving internet access in communities that have historically faced challenges in connectivity. Our goal is to provide a reliable and accessible solution that drives educational and administrative development in the region. Telespazio's strategy is to fight the digital divide worldwide by providing satellite services and solutions."

The implementation of Starlink will provide schools and development agencies in Río Negro with stable and high-speed internet connectivity, which is essential for accessing digital educational tools, online resources, and modern government services. This advancement is part of a broader effort to close the digital gap and support the growth of the local community.

"Our collaboration with Telespazio underscores our commitment to improving connectivity in areas that need it most," commented Luis Ayestaran, President of Altec. "Starlink technology is ideal for overcoming infrastructure barriers and providing reliable, high-quality internet service. We are eager to see the positive impact it will have on education and municipal services in Río Negro."

The project will start with the installation of equipment in a series of selected schools and government offices, with plans to expand to cover more institutions in the coming months. The implementation of Starlink will allow users to access online educational platforms, communicate with other institutions, and benefit from a variety of digital services that are crucial for their development and efficiency.

About Telespazio in América Latina

Telespazio, a joint venture between Leonardo (67%) and Thales (33%), operates in Latin America with two subsidiaries, one in Argentina and one in Brazil. These subsidiaries have branches that also operate in Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, and Colombia. Telespazio LATAM, present in Latin America since 1994, has

Telespazio, a Leonardo and Thales 67:33 joint venture, is one of the world's leading operators in space services. Its activities range from the design and development of space systems to the management of launch services and in-orbit satellite control, from Earth observation, integrated communications, satellite navigation and localisation services to scientific programmes. The company plays a leading role in the reference markets, supported by its infrastructure and the technological experience acquired in over 60 years of activity, which include participation in space programmes such as Galileo, EGNOS, Copernicus and COSMO-SkyMed. Telespazio, which is Thales Alenia Space's partner in the "Space Alliance", generated sales of EUR 700 million in 2023 while employing 3,300 people in 15 different countries.

a broad portfolio of technological solutions and is backed by a group with over sixty years of market experience. It offers a wide range of cutting-edge solutions in satellite communications, multimedia services, satellite ground systems services, Earth observation, and applications for corporate, governmental, and institutional markets. In the field of Earth observation, Telespazio LATAM sells satellite data generated by the Italian radar constellation COSMO-SkyMed on behalf of e-GEOS (80% Telespazio; 20% ASI).

About Altec

Altec is a company specialized in technological and communications solutions, dedicated to providing high-quality services to enhance connectivity and efficiency in various applications. It focuses on research and development to drive the modernization of medium and large organizational structures, whether state or private. For more than 30 years ALTEC S.E. It has become one of the largest public companies producing technology in Argentina. Created by the government of the province of Río Negro for research, development and provision of cutting-edge technology, ALTEC S.E. has expanded its scope of activity nationally and internationally, assuming the development and application of technological responses in other provinces of the country.