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Leonardo: space technology at Brazil's service

Having supplied the first instruments and services in the 60s, Leonardo plays a leading role in the Space market.

Leonardo provides a complete offering ranging from satellite manufacturing and orbiting infrastructures, up to the management of satellite services and the production of a wide range of high-tech instruments, subsystems, sensors, including star trackers, sun and earth sensors, electro-optical instruments, radio frequency equipment, atomic clocks, photovoltaic panels and power regulation and distribution units, drilling, extraction and sampling systems designed for planetary exploration, robotic systems, gyroscopes and infra-red sensors.

Leonardo operates in the Space sector through the activities of the Airborne and Space Systems division and through two joint ventures created with Thales, which form the "Space Alliance": Telespazio (Leonardo 67% and Thales 33%) and Thales Alenia Space (Thales 67% and Leonardo 33%). Leonardo's space expertise also includes a shareholding in AVIO, leader in Space transportation technology.

The excellent skills match assures Leonardo is able to comprehensively address any market need, covering the space industry's entire value chain and assuring an end-to-end offering for all users' requirements. Leonardo has a presence in the main international space programmes, including Copernicus, Galileo, COSMO-SkyMed, MetOp Second Generation, Meteosat Third Generation, Rosetta, BepiColombo, Venus Express, ExoMars, Dawn, Juno, JUICE, Cassini, New Horizons, Euclid and LISA Pathfinder.

Leonardo is present in the Space sector in Brazil since 1997 through its subsidiary Telespazio Brasil. With headquarters in Rio de Janeiro and regional offices in São Paulo, Porto Alegre and Cuiabá, Telespazio Brasil is one of Brazil's leading providers in the satellite telecommunications sector, offering a wide range of cutting-edge solutions and multimedia services for the Corporate and Government market. Telespazio Brasil is also active in the Earth observation sector, marketing – on behalf of e-GEOS (a Telespazio/ASI company) – the products of the COSMO-SkyMed satellite constellation (built by Thales Alenia Space), which are already being successfully used in Brazil for the monitoring of the Amazon forest, agriculture, defence and security and oil & gas protection applications.

Telespazio Brasil has supported Thales Alenia Space (a joint venture between Thales and Leonardo) in the installation and pre-operational activities related to the Control Centers of the Brazilian government satellite for military and civil applications SGDC (Satélite Geoestacionário de Defesa e Comunicações Estratégicas) and will support satellite control operations for the first year. The program plays a key role in the Brazilian Space plan and has two main objectives: the delivery of secure satellite communications for the Brazilian armed forces and government and contributing to the National Broadband Plan (PNBL) which aims at reducing the digital divide in the country.

Thales Alenia Space built the SGDC satellite and has also signed with the Brazilian Space Agency a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning an ambitious technology transfer program, designed to support the development of Brazil's own space program.