



## **President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella visits the Matera space hub**

**Matera, 17 July 2017** – The President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, today visited the Matera space hub, one of the most important centres in southern Italy for research, development and technology transfer, as well as one of the most advanced space facilities in Europe.

Welcoming the Head of State delegation were the President and General Director of the Italian Space Agency (ASI), Roberto Battiston and Anna Sirica, together with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Leonardo, Giovanni De Gennaro and Alessandro Profumo.

With a surface area of around 100,000 m<sup>2</sup>, eight operating antennas and approximately 150 staff, the Matera space hub, including the ASI Centre for Space Geodesy and the Matera Space Centre of e-GEOS (joint venture between Telespazio and ASI), is a leader in the supply of high-precision scientific data to users worldwide and geodesy, Earth observation and security accurate and timely services, which are taking on an increasingly important role for private and institutional clients on a global scale.

“ASI Centre for Space Geodesy is a fundamental node for the international scientific community, acting both as an observatory and a data analysis centre for Earth Observation, with activities aimed at the precise determination of basic geodetic parameters, like gravitational field, and geodynamic parameters of the Earth, like pole shift, earth tides and crustal displacement”, stated Roberto Battiston, President of ASI. “ASI has called for a strengthening of the Matera site both regarding the participation to the national Big Data infrastructure, and the involvement in Earth observation satellite systems such as the Italian COSMO-SkyMed and the European Copernicus programmes. Innovative technologies in the field of space quantum telecommunication, where Italy is at the forefront at worldwide level, are constantly evolving”.

“Matera is a centre of excellence for Earth observation on an international level, and a fundamental node in Leonardo's teleport network, comprising sites in Italy, Brazil, Argentina and Romania,” stated Alessandro Profumo, CEO of Leonardo. “Thanks to the state-of-the-art technologies used in our space centre and to the innovative contribution of the women and men that work here, we can receive and process data of crucial importance to the monitoring of our planet and of climate change, as well as to maritime security in the Mediterranean basin. Matera is also one of the key stations in the global geodetic network, a true show-piece for Italy in the world.”

### **Note to editors**

The Matera space hub comprises the ASI Centre for Space Geodesy and the e-GEOS Matera Space Center (joint venture between Telespazio-80% and ASI-20%).

The Matera Center for Space Geodesy, dedicated to Prof. Giuseppe “Bepi” Colombo, was opened in 1983 thanks to the joint efforts of the National Research Council (CNR) National Space Plan, the Basilicata Regional Government, and NASA. Managed operationally on behalf of the ASI by Telespazio/e-GEOS, it is Italy's point of reference for geodesy activities. It is equipped with state-of-the-art instrumentation, including Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI), a radio telescope used for geodetic measurements through the observation of remote sources, including quasars, and the Matera Laser Ranging Observatory (MLRO), used to determine the exact orbits of artificial satellites



and to obtain high-precision geodetic measurements. Furthermore, at the Geodesy Center studies are carried out on new technologies for quantum telecommunications and the monitoring of space debris. The Centre is also home to the civil user ground segment of the Italian Earth observation satellite system COSMO-SkyMed, the first satellite system in the world for dual-purpose Earth observation.

The e-GEOS Matera Space Centre, operational since 1994, is part of the international network of centres and teleports operated by Telespazio (joint venture between Leonardo-67% and Thales-33%). The Centre's activities include the acquisition and processing of remote sensing data from the main Earth observation satellites, as well as the production of images, products and services for maritime surveillance. In particular, the Centre took part in the planning and integration of the civil user ground segment of COSMO-SkyMed, guaranteeing operational and maintenance services on behalf of the ASI. It is also one of the stations of the European Space Agency's Core Ground Segment for receiving and processing radar and optical data acquired by the Copernicus Sentinel satellites, where Copernicus is the European Union's Earth observation programme. It also guarantees a satellite map supply service for emergency management. The satellite data of the two constellations are essential for purposes such as the study of climate change, territorial observation, the prevention and management of environmental disasters, coastal monitoring, ice monitoring, monitoring of agricultural and forestry resources, and urban building control. Finally, the acquisition and processing of satellite data is also carried out at Matera for the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), enabling the monitoring of marine pollution by petroleum and the identification of the vessels responsible for illegal activities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

#### **About the Italian Space Agency - [www.asi.it](http://www.asi.it)**

The Italian Space Agency was founded in 1988. Its purpose was to coordinate all of Italy's efforts and investments in the space sector that had begun in the 1960s.

Since its foundation, ASI became one of the most significant players in the world in space science, satellite technologies and the development of payloads devoted to exploration of the Universe. Today, ASI plays a key role at the European level as the third contributor to the European Space Agency. It has also an intense activity at with non-European Agencies most notably NASA, ROSCOSMOS, CNSA, CMSA, JAXA, ISA and CONAE.

ASI Press office  
Giuseppina Piccirilli  
Ph. +39 06 8567431  
[stampa@asi.it](mailto:stampa@asi.it)

#### **About Leonardo – [www.leonardocompany.com](http://www.leonardocompany.com)**

Leonardo is among the top ten global players in Aerospace, Defence and Security and Italy's main industrial company. As a single entity from January 2016, organised into seven business divisions (Helicopters; Aircraft; Aerostructures; Airborne & Space Systems; Land & Naval Defence Electronics; Defence Systems; Security & Information Systems), Leonardo operates in the most competitive international markets by leveraging its areas of technology and product leadership. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (LDO), in 2016 Leonardo recorded consolidated revenues of 12 billion Euros and has a significant industrial presence in Italy, the UK, the U.S. and Poland.

Leonardo Press Office  
Ph. +39 0632473313  
[pressoffice@leonardocompany.com](mailto:pressoffice@leonardocompany.com)