

Telespazio France, e-GEOS, POST Luxembourg and HITEC Luxembourg invest in an EarthLab center based in Luxembourg dedicated to industrial and environmental risk monitoring

A few months after the European Space Agency ministerial council in Luxembourg, Telespazio France, the French subsidiary of the Telespazio group (Finmeccanica/Thales), e-GEOS (subsidiary of the Italian Space Agency and Telespazio) the wholly state-owned postal and telecommunications company POST Luxembourg and the SME HITEC Luxembourg announce their strategic partnership in the EarthLab programme.

These partners invest in the setting up of a Joint Venture for the establishment of the **EarthLab Luxembourg** center, first European center for environment monitoring dedicated to industrial and environmental risks. The new Joint Venture is consolidated by the support from the Luxembourg government, in the frame of its willingness to develop applications and added value services relying on satellite infrastructures.

During a press conference held at the Ministry of the Economy in Luxembourg on 9 June 2015, all the stakeholders promoted the assets of the EarthLab Luxembourg center combining the Earth Observation last generation satellite means with the new digital technologies.

Industrial initiative complementary to the European programme Copernicus defined and managed by the European Commission, the EarthLab Luxembourg center will combine a unique expertise in R & D and innovative service provision, supporting tools for risk assessment. The Luxembourg local team will quickly define and propose a first offer portfolio of geo-information services for industry, insurance and investment fund stakeholders.

Supported by the Luxembourg government, the **EarthLab Luxembourg** center is the third center of the international **EarthLab Galaxy** program (www.earthlab-galaxy.com) initiated by Telespazio France (Finmeccanica/Thales company), after the setting up by 2013 of **EarthLab Aquitaine**, the original center in partnership with the Aquitaine region council, and of **EarthLab Gabon**, in partnership with the Gabonese government, represented by the AGEOS, the Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations, and the FGIS, the Gabonese Strategic Investment Fund.

"I am proud of this agreement, in one of historical countries of the European space industry, that demonstrate the assets of our EarthLab Galaxy programme and consolidate this partnership approach towards an active dissemination of space-based services", declare Jean-Marc GARDIN, Deputy CEO of Telespazio Group and CEO of Telespazio France, that will be with e-GEOS, the first shareholder of the EarthLab Luxembourg SA Joint Venture.

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Economy Étienne SCHNEIDER stated: "The setting up of the Earthlab center in Luxembourg, in a strategic partnership with national companies like POST or HITEC, is the fruit of the unfailing commitment of the Luxembourg government in further diversifying the national economy and in innovation in key technology sectors like space or ICT. A project like Earthlab Luxembourg and its national economic benefits retroactively justify the accession of the Grand-Duchy to the European Space Agency."

About Telespazio France:

Based in Toulouse and with offices in Paris, Bordeaux, Kourou and Libreville, Telespazio France is the French subsidiary of Telespazio, a joint venture of Finmeccanica and Thales (67%/33%) with revenues of €658 million in 2014 and 2,500 employees. Telespazio has played a pioneering role in satellite-based services and its history has been shaped by key advances and major technological breakthroughs. With the first live satellite television broadcasts in 1964, Telespazio became one of the world's leading suppliers of telecommunications, Earth-observation and navigation solutions. Telespazio France is leveraging this culture of innovation and its expertise in latest digital technologies to develop new services with high added value, notably for the geo-information and navigation markets, as well as for media, retail, oil and gas, and defense. Telespazio France operates complex satellite systems and sustains a large number of infrastructures.

www.telespazio.com

www.earthlab-galaxy.com

About e-GEOS

e-GEOS, an ASI (20%) / Telespazio (80%) company, is a leading international player in the Earth Observation and Geo-Spatial Information business. e-GEOS offers a unique portfolio of application services, also thanks to the superior monitoring capabilities of COSMO-SkyMed constellation, and has acquired a leading position within European Copernicus Program.

Application services include: monitoring for environmental protection, rush mapping in support to natural disaster management, specialized products for defense and intelligence, oil spill and ship detection for maritime surveillance, interferometric measurements for landslides and ground subsidence analysis, thematic mapping for agriculture and forestry.

In support to its operational applications, e-GEOS operates the Matera Space Centre for acquisition, archiving and processing of multi-mission satellite data including COSMO-SkyMed and ESA Sentinels.

www.e-geos.it

About POST Luxembourg group

Founded in 1842, POST Luxembourg has been a public service company since 1992. The Luxembourg State is its sole shareholder. POST Luxembourg operates postal, financial and telecommunication services. POST is the leading provider of postal and telecommunication services in Luxembourg.

In the field of telecommunications, POST operates a fixed-line and mobile network providing a full range of voice, data and Internet services, including satellite uplinks. One of our significant investment projects has been the deployment of an ultra-high-speed fibre optic network in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Its subsidiary POST Telecom S.A. is the leading operator in mobile telephony.

POST serves its residential and professional customers, including banks, international insurance companies and European institutions. POST offers state-of-the-art technology and provides tailor-made services to the business community. Its international high-speed fibre optic network, TERALINK (www.teralink.biz), connects major financial and economic global players, both to and from Luxembourg.

A key stakeholder in the national economy, POST Luxembourg Group and its 19 subsidiaries employ over 4,000 staff members. It is one of the largest employers in Luxembourg.

www.postgroup.lu

About HITEC Luxembourg S.A.

HITEC Luxembourg S.A., a 100%-owned Luxembourg company, has developed its business activities in the field of innovative and quality products and services. The company is ISO 9001 certified for engineering, analysis, consulting, manufacturing, maintenance and sales of systems in mechanics, electronics, physical measuring techniques as well as information and communication technologies. The Luxembourg ESR label for corporate social responsibility (CSR) certifies the commitment by HITEC Luxembourg to monitor and promote an approach to CSR with respect to economic, social and environmental dimensions of its stakeholders. The company has been awarded with the SuperDrecksKëscht fir Betriber label for its contribution to an environmental friendly waste management. The label is certified in accordance with the ISO 14024:2000 standard.

HITEC Luxembourg offers high technology solutions covering different business areas: satellite ground segment technology; customer specific and standard equipment for testing and measuring of physical properties; engineering; consulting; software & ICT development and project management. HITEC Luxembourg serves private and public sector customers at a national and international level. Its business objectives, as a specialized high technology provider are to achieve a strong sustainable market position; to expand its activities at an international level as well as to promote the Luxembourg site through the realization of innovative high quality value-added products and services. www.hitec.lu